



Department
for Education

Regions Group
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The Members and Trustees of Dartmoor Multi Academy Trust
Wardhayes
Simmons Way
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Devon EX20 1PY

By email only

08 September 2025

Dear Ms Hardie

Termination Warning Notice to the Members and Trustees of Dartmoor Multi Academy Trust in respect of The Promise School

In accordance with clauses 5.F to 5H of the funding agreement for The Promise School ("the Academy") the Secretary of State may terminate the funding agreement if the Chief Inspector gives notice to the Academy Trust that special measures are required to be taken in relation to the Academy or the Academy requires significant improvement.

I received an Ofsted notification dated 07 July 2025 confirming that The Promise School was judged to require special measures. For the reasons set out below, I now consider it necessary to issue this Termination Warning Notice.

The Ofsted report published on 15 July 2025 highlights the following areas of concern:

- The school's expectations for pupils' behaviour and their attitudes to learning are low. This is exacerbated further by the school's lack of a consistent approach in how to challenge and respond to pupils' poor behaviour.
- The school has not ensured that its staff have the necessary knowledge and skills to support pupils with SEND.
- The school's curriculum is not sufficiently developed. Furthermore, the systems to check pupils' progress through the curriculum and identify gaps in learning are not effective.
- The school has not secured the strategic oversight needed to identify and address weaknesses in its provision quickly enough.

- The school has not established a shared vision and agreed values to support and foster the development of a positive school culture, which is aspirational for its pupils in all that they can achieve socially, emotionally and academically.

As Regional Director, I need to be satisfied that the trust has capacity to deliver rapid and sustainable improvement at the academy. If I am not satisfied that this can be achieved, I will consider whether to terminate the funding agreement in order to transfer the academy to an alternative academy trust.

In making the decision on whether to terminate the funding agreement I will consider any written representations the trust wish to make in response to this Termination Warning Notice.

I would also ask that the following be supplied alongside the representations, which I will consider when assessing the trust's capacity to deliver rapid and sustainable improvement at the academy:

- A Post Ofsted Action Plan. This should include how issues identified within the Ofsted report will be addressed.
- The School Improvement Plan for The Promise School.
- A written summary of leadership, staffing and governance arrangements at the academy, and available support capacity in the wider trust including details of the trust's recruitment and retention plans.
- A written summary of the school improvement plan for the Trust, aimed at reversing the decline in performance at Key Stages 2 and 4, and ensuring every student has the best opportunity to achieve and thrive.
- Any additional information you consider would be helpful for me to be aware of.

Please provide me with any representations the trust wish to make by 30 September 2025.

We are mindful of creating unnecessary pressures on school leaders and staff, and as such we would ask the trust to ensure that the appropriate provision is in place to support the school workforce.

I am copying this letter to Ofsted, the trust CEO and Devon Local Authority. A copy of this letter will also be published on GOV.UK.

Yours sincerely



Lucy Livings
Regional Director for South West

CC: Ofsted, Rachel Shaw CEO, Dartmoor Multi Academy Trust, Julian Wooster, Director of Children and Young People's Futures, Devon County Council