



Department
for Education

Regions Group
Second Floor
3 Glass Wharf
Avon Street
Bristol BS2 0PS
Tel: 0370 000 2288

The Members and Directors/Trustees of Alumnis Multi Academy Trust
St Helen's Church of England School
Abbotsham
Bideford
EX39 5AP

By email only

09 October 2025

Dear Ms Jenkins

Termination Warning Notice to the Members and Trustees of Alumnis Multi Academy Trust in respect of The Clinton Church of England Primary School

In accordance with clauses 5.F to 5H of the funding agreement for The Clinton Church of England Primary 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 11 September 2025 confirming that The Clinton Church of England Primary 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 22 September 2025 highlights the following areas of concern:

- The trust has not taken effective action to stabilise the recent turbulence in staffing at the school. Consequently, staff are stretched beyond capacity. The trust must take urgent action to stabilise the staffing at the school and provide much needed capacity at leadership level so that all aspects of the school's provision improve rapidly.

- The school does not make sure that teaching of the curriculum is adapted effectively to the needs of pupils with SEND. As a result, pupils with SEND do not progress well through the curriculum. The trust should ensure that it enables pupils with SEND to learn subject curriculums and to achieve well.
- The school does not use assessment effectively enough to check what pupils know and remember. As a result, staff do not design tasks which are ambitious or take into account what pupils already know and can do. This means pupils do not build knowledge securely. The trust needs to ensure that teachers use assessment effectively to check pupil understanding and support them to design tasks that help pupils to know more over time.
- In the early years, the quality of the activities to help children learn are variable. This means that opportunities for children to deepen or consolidate their knowledge are less effective than they could be. The trust should ensure that children's learning is maximised in all activities, so that they achieve as well as they should and are ready for the next stage of their education.
- Staff do not have the expertise required to deliver some curriculum subjects as intended or to improve pupils' reading. This means pupils do not make progress through the curriculum or develop their reading as well as they should. The trust should ensure that all staff have the subject and pedagogical expertise they need to deliver the curriculum effectively and ensure that pupils' reading develops sufficiently well.

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 Clinton Church of England Primary 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 school improvement plans for schools identified as a concern across the wider trust
- 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 06 November 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's Accounting Officer, Devon Local Authority and the Diocese of Exeter. A copy of this letter will also be published on GOV.UK.

Yours sincerely

A black rectangular box used to redact the signature of the sender.

Lucy Living
Regional Director for South West Regions Group

CC: Ofsted, Mark Blackman, Accounting Officer, Alumnis Multi Academy Trust, Julian Wooster, Director of Children and Young People's Futures Devon County Council, Sue Lockwood, Diocesan Director of Education, Diocese of Exeter