

The Members and Trustees of The Primary First Trust
The White House,
Clifton Marine Parade,
Gravesend,
DA11 0DY

By email only: [REDACTED]

23 February 2026

Dear Mr Rumbles

Termination Warning Notice to the Members and Trustees of The Primary First Trust in respect of Wayfield Primary School

In accordance with clauses 5.F to 5.H of the funding agreement for Wayfield 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.

As set out in [Support and intervention in schools](#), there is a presumption that academies found by Ofsted to require special measures will receive structural intervention. I received an Ofsted notification dated 19 January 2026 confirming that the Academy 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 05 February 2026 highlights the following areas of concern under ‘Next steps’:

- Those responsible for governance must fulfil their statutory duties in relation to safeguarding so that they have the information they need to check on procedures and hold leaders to account for pupils' safety.
- Leaders must ensure that the behaviour management procedures eradicate poor behaviour, support pupils' wellbeing and lead to pupils feeling and being safe.

- Leaders must ensure that record-keeping about behaviour incidents, especially incidents linked to restrictive physical intervention, is accurate and shared with the local governing body and trust.
- Leaders should ensure that they evaluate the quality of teaching to identify where improvement is needed and then provide staff with suitable support to help them gain the subject knowledge and teaching skills that they need to deliver the curriculum well so that pupils achieve well.
- Leaders and those responsible for governance should ensure that evaluation of the school's strengths and areas for improvement is evidenced by accurate information and robust analysis.
- Leaders should ensure that the learning and wellbeing needs of disadvantaged pupils and those with special educational needs and/or disabilities are identified accurately and that these pupils receive the support they need to thrive and succeed.
- Leaders should check pupils' attendance with more rigour so that patterns and themes are identified, leading to appropriate support to reduce the barriers to regular school attendance.
- Leaders should ensure that staff have the knowledge and skills that they need to teach pupils to read.
- Leaders should ensure that children in the early years are supported with their language and communication through staff engaging them in high-quality interactions.
- Leaders and those responsible for governance should check and evaluate the use of pupil premium funding to ensure that it benefits disadvantaged pupils

In order to set the presumption of structural change aside, I, as Regional Director, must be satisfied that exceptional circumstances apply. Exceptional circumstances may apply, for example, if I am satisfied that the trust has demonstrated, through its representations and/or other evidence, that there has been an exceptional improvement or change in leadership capacity at trust and school levels since or shortly before inspection, which shows impact and which will secure rapid, and sustainable improvement at the academy. If I am not satisfied that exceptional circumstances apply, I will, in accordance with the Department's policy, consider terminating the funding agreement to enable the academy's transfer 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.

Please provide me with any representations the trust wish to make by 16 March 2026.

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, Medway Council. A copy of this letter will also be published on GOV.UK.

Yours sincerely,



Dame Kate Dethridge Regional Director, South East Regions Group

CC:

Caroline Dulon, Regional Director, South East, Ofsted

Lorna Hamilton, CEO of The Primary First Trust

Dr Lee-Anne Farach, Director of People, Medway Council

Celia Buxton, Assistant Director, Education and SEND, Medway Council