



Department
for Education

Regional Director's Office

Lucy Livings
Regional Director for the South West
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The Members and Trustees of Beacon Education
Ponsford Road
Minehead
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TA24 5RH

By email only

14 April 2026

Dear Mrs Bellamy

Termination Warning Notice to the Members and Trustees of Beacon Education MAT Ltd (“the Trust”) in respect of Danesfield Church of England Voluntary Controlled Community Middle School (“the Academy”)

In accordance with clauses 6.6 to 6.8 of the funding agreement for the Academy, the Secretary of State may terminate the funding agreement if the Chief Inspector gives notice to the 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 17 March 2026 confirming that the Academy was judged to require significant improvement. For the reasons set out below, I now consider it necessary to issue this Termination Warning Notice.

The Ofsted report published on 26 March 2026 highlights the following areas for improvement:

- Leaders should ensure that staff have the expertise they need to support pupils to overcome their individual barriers to learning and make improved progress through the curriculum.
- Leaders need to ensure that staff have the subject knowledge and teaching expertise to teach the curriculum as intended.
- Leaders must ensure that staff accurately identify and close gaps in pupils' foundational knowledge so they can access the curriculum as intended and are better prepared for their next steps in education.

- Leaders should ensure that they understand the barriers to attendance. They should use this to help pupils overcome those barriers so that pupils attend regularly.
- Leaders need to ensure that staff have the knowledge to support pupils to learn the important knowledge in the personal development programme 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 Academy's funding agreement in order to transfer the Academy to an alternative academy trust.

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

However, I am aware that the Board of Trustees and the Executive are in agreement that the Academy should no longer remain in the Trust, and I approved this transfer alongside the other academies in Beacon Education MAT following the South West Regions Group advisory board meeting on 23 February 2026.

Please provide me with any representations the Trust wish to make by 11 May 2026. This deadline has been extended to take account of the school holiday.

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 Academy's workforce.

I am copying this letter to Ofsted, Trust Interim CEO, Somerset Council and the Diocese of Bath and Wells.

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

Yours sincerely,



Lucy Livings
Regional Director for the South West

CC:

James McNeillie - South West Regional Director for Ofsted

Trudy Danby - Beacon Education Trust Interim CEO

Claire Winter - Director of Children's Services at Somerset Council

Edward Gregory - Director of Education at the Diocese of Bath and Wells