



Department
for Education

Regional Director's Office
Lucy Livings
Regional Director for the
South West
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The Members and Trustees of Bridgwater & Taunton College Trust

Bridgwater College Academy
Parkway
Bridgwater
TA6 4QY

By email only

2 June 2026

Dear Mr Berry,

Termination Warning Notice to the Members and Trustees of the Bridgwater & Taunton College Trust (“the Trust”) in respect of Bridgwater College Academy (“the Academy”)

In accordance with sections 2A and 2D of the Academies Act 2010ⁱ any funding agreement of an academy may be terminated by the Secretary of State where special measures are required to be taken in relation to the academy or the academy requires significant improvement and the Chief Inspector of Ofsted has given notice of that under section 13(3)(a) of the Education Act 2005.

I received an Ofsted notification dated 12 May 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 20 May 2026 highlights the following areas for improvement:

- Those responsible for governance should ensure that they have a robust oversight of the improvement work taking place so that they can appropriately support and challenge leaders.
- Leaders should put effective systems in place to accurately and swiftly identify pupils' barriers to learning and share this information with staff so that pupils can receive effective support and be successful in their learning.
- Leaders should ensure that teachers have the expertise they need to teach the curriculum effectively so that attainment rises for all pupils across all key stages.
- Leaders should ensure that there are clear expectations and commonly understood routines so that pupils behave well and engage positively with their learning.

- Leaders should ensure that the personal development programme is well matched to the local context of pupils to prepare them well for adult life.
- Leaders should continue to revise their approach to continuous provision so that adults support children to learn as well as they should.

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, which means they will be transferred to an alternative academy trust. This presumption may be set aside in exceptional circumstances.

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 both trust and school levels since or shortly before inspection, which already shows impact, and therefore the Trust is now demonstrating that it has the capacity to deliver 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 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.

Please provide me with any representations the Trust wish to make by 23 June 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 Academy's workforce.

I am copying this letter to Ofsted, the Trust's CEO, and Somerset Council. 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

Mark Thomas – Bridgwater & Taunton College Trust CEO

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

ⁱ Inserted by section 14 of the Education and Adoption Act 2016