



Department  
for Education

**Department for Education**  
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The Members and Trustees  
The Basildon Academies  
Wickford Avenue  
Pitsea  
Basildon  
SS13 3HL

By email only [REDACTED]

22 June 2026

Dear Ms O'Donoghue,

**Termination Warning Notice to the Members and Trustees of The Basildon Academies (“the Trust”) in respect of The Basildon Lower Academy (“the Academy”)**

In accordance with clauses 5.F to 5.H 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 1 June 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 9 June 2026 highlights the following areas for improvement:

- Leaders must ensure that their strategies to improve attendance result in a significant reduction in the number of pupils who are absent and persistently absent from school.
- Leaders should ensure teachers have the knowledge and skills they need to adapt the curriculum effectively, so that all pupils, including pupils with special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND) and disadvantaged pupils, have every opportunity to learn and understand what they are taught.
- Leaders should ensure that staff apply routines consistently, so that incidents of poor behaviour are addressed promptly and effectively across the school.
- Leaders should ensure that all pupils, particularly pupils with SEND and disadvantaged pupils, are encouraged to participate fully in the school's wide range of extra-curricular activities.

As Regional Director I need to be satisfied that the trust has sufficient capacity to deliver rapid and sustainable improvement at the Academy.

If I am not satisfied that rapid and sustainable improvement 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.

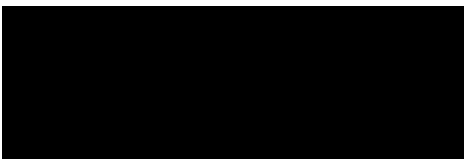
In making the decision on whether to terminate the Academy's funding agreement I will consider any written representations the Trust wish to make in response to this Termination Warning Notice.

Please provide me with any representations the Trust wish to make by 13 July 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 Essex LA. A copy of this letter will also be published on GOV.UK.

Yours sincerely,

A large black rectangular redaction box covering the signature area.

**Jonathan Duff**  
Regional Director  
East of England, Regions Group

CC: Ofsted, Gary Smith (trust CEO), Clare Kershaw (Essex LA)