



Department
for Education

Dame Kate Dethridge
Regional Director
South East Regions Group
34 Clarendon Road
Watford
WD17 1JJ

The Members and Trustees of Coastal Academies Trust
King Ethelbert School,
Canterbury Road,
Birchington,
CT7 9BL

By Email - [REDACTED]

24 September 2026

Dear Ms Pottinger

Termination Warning Notice to the Members and Trustees of the Coastal Academies Trust (“the Trust”) in respect of The Royal Harbour 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 30 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 13 July 2026 highlights the following areas for improvement:

- Leaders should ensure that the quality and consistency of teaching across the school improves, so that pupils learn effectively and achieve well.
- Leaders should ensure that assessment is used more effectively across the school, to identify and address misconceptions and knowledge gaps.
- Leaders should ensure that pupils develop secure foundations in their mathematical knowledge, so that they are better prepared for their next steps.
- Leaders should ensure that they continue their work to reduce pupils' absences.

As set out in [Support and intervention in schools](#), there is a presumption that academies that require significant improvement will receive Regional Improvement

for Standards and Excellence (RISE) intervention, delivering a bespoke package of challenge and support to target areas of weakness identified in Ofsted report cards, rather than being transferred to an alternative trust. This presumption may be set aside in exceptional circumstances, in which case I will 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 enter the Academy into RISE or 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 15 October 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 Kent County Council. A copy of this letter will also be published on GOV.UK.

Yours sincerely



Kate Dethridge
Regional Director for South East Region

CC: Caroline Dulon, His Majesty Inspector Regional Director, South East, Ofsted
Christine McInnes Director of Children's Services, Kent County Council
Kate Greig, CEO, Coastal Academies Trust