Department for Education

Regional Directors Office

Bishopsgate House
Feethams
Darlington
DL1 5QE

The Members and Trustees of Wickersley Partnership Trust
Swanage Court,
Dodds Close,
Bradmarsh Business Park,
Rotherham,
S60 1BX

By email only [redacted]

16 October 2026

Dear Mr Calvert,

Termination Warning Notice to the Members and Trustees of Wickersley Partnership Trust ("the Trust") in respect of Thrybergh 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 16 September 2026 confirming that the Academy was judged to require significant improvement. Where an academy has been judged to require significant improvement there is a policy presumption in favour of issuing the academy trust with a Termination Warning Notice.

The Ofsted report published on 29 September 2026 highlights the following areas for improvement:

- Leaders must ensure that their actions to improve attendance for all pupils are effective, especially for pupils with special educational needs and/or disabilities and disadvantaged pupils.
- Leaders must ensure that they take highly effective action to improve achievement so that pupils leave school with the knowledge, skills and qualifications that they need for their next steps in education or training.
- Leaders should further refine the curriculum so that it is sufficiently ambitious and meets the needs of all pupils.
- Leaders should ensure that teachers identify gaps in pupils' knowledge quickly and resolve them promptly so that pupils make appropriate progress.

As set out in Support and intervention in schools, academies receiving RISE support that are judged as requires significant improvement partway through the two-year improvement

period will be considered on a case-by-case basis when determining whether transfer to a new trust is appropriate.

In making the decision on whether the Academy should continue in RISE or terminate the Academy's funding agreement to bring about a transfer, 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 November 2026. This information should include, but is not limited to:

- A copy of the Post Ofsted Action Plan;
- Your assessment of the RISE work to date, and any other support being provided to secure educational improvement at the academy that you wish to draw to my attention;
- Details of current governance and leadership arrangements both at the Academy and the Trust.

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

Yours sincerely

[redacted]

Alison Wilson
Regional Director for Yorkshire and the Humber

CC:
Ofsted, Regional Director – Katrina Gueli
Wickersley Partnership Trust, CEO – Helen O'Brien
Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council, Director of Children and Young People's Services – Nicola Curley