



Department
for Education

Department for Education
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Chair of Governors
c/o Elm CofE Primary School
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11th January 2017

Dear Chair

How we will support your school in response to it meeting the coasting definition

I am writing to you because your school meets the coasting definition based on its performance in 2014, 2015 and 2016. This letter sets out how we would like to work with you to ensure your school has the support it needs to deliver the best possible outcomes for pupils.

The Department for Education introduced the coasting definition to help the Secretary of State to identify schools better where pupils are not fulfilling their potential so that these schools get the focus and support that they need to improve. The coasting school definition has been agreed by Parliament and published at:

gov.uk/government/publications/primary-school-accountability (primary);
gov.uk/government/publications/progress-8-school-performance-measure (secondary).

My team have been working with you to look at your school's circumstances as part of your school's planned conversion within the Diocese of Ely Multi Academy Trust. Meeting the coasting definition means that I now need to come to a conclusion about whether:

- Your school is supporting pupils well and that no additional support is required;
- You already have a sufficient plan and the capacity to improve your school - and do not need any additional support;
- Your school would benefit from additional support, for example from a National Leader of Education or through a partnership with another school.

The Secretary of State also has the power to take formal action in a coasting school. This could include a sponsored academy solution. However, we expect that this will only happen in a small minority of cases and only when improvement cannot be brought about in any other way.

As a next step, I would welcome any additional information you can provide on the points below. You may wish to discuss your school's situation and plans with the Diocese of Ely Multi Academy Trust. If you already have a plan in place that covers some or all of these areas, please feel free to provide this as part of your response:

- The specific reason(s) why you believe your school has met the coasting definition;
- If appropriate, the action you have already taken, or plan to take, to address these issues and bring about the necessary improvements - and the impact that this has had;
- If you believe you would benefit from additional support, the type of support you think would help your school to improve.

I would be grateful if you could provide a response to me at the e-mail address above within 15 working days of receiving this letter. I, or a member of my team, will then be in touch to discuss the best way forward for your school. In the meantime, if you would like to get in touch to discuss the contents of this letter, please contact Cheryl.Oakman@education.gov.uk.

I look forward to receiving your response and to working with you and the Diocese of Ely Multi Academy Trust to ensure your school has the support it needs to improve outcomes for the young people it serves. The Schools Causing Concern guidance (gov.uk/government/publications/schools-causing-concern--2) contains more information about what will happen when a school is identified as coasting.

In the meantime, I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your continued efforts to provide the best possible education for the young people educated at your school.

To be aware, I am sending a copy of this letter to your school's head teacher, Cambridgeshire County Council, The Diocese of Ely and Ofsted.

Yours sincerely



Tim Coulson
Regional Schools Commissioner, East of England and North East London