



Department
for Education

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Chair of Governors
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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).

I would like to reassure you that meeting the coasting definition is the starting point for discussion. My team and I would like to work with you and the local authority to agree with you what, if any, additional support you might need. My colleagues met with headteacher David Jeapes in November to understand the wider context of Mayfield School and to discuss its available options. As a result of ongoing discussions, I might conclude that:

- 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, such as a sponsored academy solution. We expect however 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 starting point for our discussions, I would welcome any information you can provide on the points below. You may already have a plan in place that covers some or all of these areas, in which case 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, including if a discussion about joining an academy trust would be helpful.

I would be grateful if you could provide a response to me at the email 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.

I look forward to receiving your response and to working with you 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](https://www.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 copying this letter to your school's headteacher, Portsmouth City Council and Ofsted.

Dominic Herrington,

Regional Schools Commissioner, South East and South London