



PRESS RELEASE FOR IMMEDIATE USE

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Trust Reinforces Commitment to Swift, Sustainable Improvement at Mount Tamar

Mount Tamar, part of Transforming Futures Trust (TFT) was inspected by Ofsted on 20th January 2026 and has been judged to require Special Measures.

The Trust acknowledges this disappointing outcome and recognises that the judgement falls significantly short of the standard of education, care and support that every child deserves, and which the Trust is committed to delivering. Both the school and the Trust fully accept the findings and are committed to addressing every area of weakness identified.

While the report reflects the school's position at the time of inspection, significant work to address these challenges was already underway and continues at pace. Ofsted noted that new school and curriculum leaders have begun positive work focused on key priorities.

Actions already in progress include strengthening safeguarding systems and daily routines, improving pastoral support for newly admitted pupils, reshaping the curriculum with a focus on reading, introducing clearer attendance expectations, and working with external partners to promote respectful relationships and challenge prejudice. These steps are at an early stage but establish firm foundations and commitment for sustained improvement for the school.

The Trust had previously identified the need for rapid and decisive change and implemented a comprehensive Rapid School Improvement Plan ahead of the inspection. Mount Tamar has faced longstanding legacy challenges before joining Transforming Futures Trust in 2023, compounded by instability in senior leadership. A stable and consistent leadership structure has now been in place for the past 12-18 months, providing clearer direction, increased capacity and a sustained focus on improving standards and culture across the school.

Early signs of progress are emerging; however, it is recognised that substantial work remains. Improvement activity is continuing with urgency to ensure that changes are embedded and sustained over time.

Mark Ruffett, Executive Headteacher at Mount Tamar, said: *"This is a disappointing outcome, and the findings make clear the scale of improvement required. Both the school and Trust fully accept this and is focused on delivering the rapid, sustained change that pupils need and deserve. While early progress is evident, it is not yet where it needs to be, and there is no complacency about the work ahead. The priority now is to secure consistency, strengthen standards and ensure that improvements are felt by every pupil, every day."*

The school continues to be supported by an Interim Academy Board (IAB), which provides robust challenge, scrutiny and oversight to ensure that progress remains on track.

Carole Burgoyne, Chair of the Board of Trustees, said: *“The Board and IAB are holding the school to account with clear, constructive challenge to ensure that improvements are delivered with urgency. There is a significant amount still to do, but the foundations are now in place. The focus is on maintaining momentum and ensuring that change is both meaningful and sustained for all pupils.”*

The Trust is also working closely with the Department for Education on a planned voluntary merger with Reach South Academy Trust. This will bring additional leadership capacity, specialist expertise and long-term stability, helping to accelerate the improvements already underway. Combined with the commitment of Mount Tamar’s staff, this is expected to accelerate the pace of improvement already underway.

Despite the concerns identified, inspectors recognised positive relationships between pupils and staff, the welcoming start to the school day, and the value pupils place on enrichment opportunities. These strengths provide a foundation for further development.

The Trust would like to thank staff, parents and carers for their continued support during this period.

Sandra Harris, Interim Chief Executive Officer, said: *“Rebuilding trust with pupils, families and the wider community is a key priority, and that will be done through open and transparent communication as improvements continue. The focus remains clear: ensuring that every child at Mount Tamar receives a safe, supportive environment and the high-quality education to which they are entitled.”*

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For more information about Transforming Futures Trust please go to

<https://www.transformingfutures.org.uk/>