



Department
for Education

Hannah Woodhouse
Regional Schools Commissioner for the South West
2 Rivergate, Temple Quay
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BS1 6EH

The Members and Trustees/Directors of The White Horse Federation
The White Horse Federation
Plymouth Street
Swindon
SN1 2LB

29 September 2021

Dear [REDACTED],

**Termination Warning Notice to the to the Members and Trustees/Directors of
The White Horse Federation in respect of Peak Academy**

In accordance with sections 2A and 2D of the Academies Act 2010ⁱ any funding agreement of an academy may be terminated by the Secretary of State where special measures are required to be taken by the academy or the academy requires significant improvement and the Chief Inspector of Ofsted has given notice of that under section 13(3)(a) of the Education Act 2005.

I received an Ofsted notification dated 10th September 2021 confirming that Peak Academy was judged to be inadequate and has serious weaknesses. For the reasons set out below, I now consider it necessary to issue this Termination Warning Notice.

- The arrangements for safeguarding are not effective.
- The trust has not ensured that leaders at the school implement a strong culture of safeguarding. Leaders do not manage allegations well enough. A lack of appropriate and timely reporting to the local authority could put pupils at risk of harm.
- Some pupils say that they are bullied frequently at school. These pupils do not believe that their concerns will be acted on. Leaders should review their antibullying strategy and the procedures that they use to respond to bullying incidents, so that pupils feel listened to and safe.
- The quality of education is not good enough. The curriculum in some subjects is not yet planned so that pupils learn what they need to reach ambitious goals.
- Teachers do not use assessment effectively. At times, pupils are given work that does not match their needs. In particular, the content chosen can lack ambition and be too easy. This creates frustration for pupils. Leaders need to ensure that assessment information is used to inform what pupils learn next.

In making the decision on whether to terminate the funding agreement I will consider any written representations you wish to make in response to this Termination Warning Notice.

Please provide me with any representations you wish to make by Wednesday 20th October 2021.

I would be grateful for the following evidence, which I will consider when assessing whether the trust is making sufficient improvements:

- A written summary of safeguarding arrangements at the academy, and available supportive capacity in the wider trust to ensure effective safeguarding of all young people in the trust.
- A written summary of intended future leadership, staffing, and governance arrangements including but not limited to, leadership responsibility and accountability for safeguarding, at the academy.
- Details of the trust's existing internal staff disciplinary processes and any planned changes.
- Information on the action being taken to support education improvements and the timescales of this work (for example, a post-inspection action plan).
- Any additional information you consider would be helpful to me.

I am copying this letter to the National Schools Commissioner, Ofsted and Gloucestershire County Council. A copy of this letter will also be published on GOV.UK.

Yours sincerely,



Hannah Woodhouse
Regional Schools Commissioner for the South West

Cc: Dominic Herrington, National Schools Commissioner

Cc: [REDACTED], South West Regional Director, Ofsted

Cc: [REDACTED], Director of Children's Services, Gloucestershire County Council

ⁱ Inserted by section 14 of the Education and Adoption Act 2016