



Department
for Education

Regional Schools Commissioner, North
Department for Education
Bishopsgate House
Darlington
DL1 5QE

Email: [REDACTED]

The Members and Trustees of Yorkshire Causeway Schools Trust
St Aidan's Church of England High School
Oatlands Drive
Harrogate
HG2 8JR

10 February 2022

Dear [REDACTED]

Termination Warning Notice to the Members and Trustees of Yorkshire Causeway Schools Trust in respect of St Aidan's Church of England High School

In accordance with sections 2A and 2D of the Academies Act 2010¹ 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 16 December 2021, followed by the report on 5 January confirming that St Aidan's Church of England High School 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. Of serious concern to me are Ofsted's conclusions that:

- The arrangements for safeguarding are not effective and the below concerns may put pupils at risk of harm:
 - Leaders have not ensured statutory recruitment checks are made when ensuring the suitability of adults to work with pupils;
 - Some staff do not understand the range of safeguarding risks to pupils;
 - Leaders have not taken timely action when pupils are vulnerable to harm;
 - Leaders do not consistently take the right action to protect pupils;
 - There are inconsistencies in staff understanding of statutory guidance and safeguarding risks to pupils; and

- The curriculum does not support pupils to develop an appropriate understanding of the safeguarding risks they may face.
- Governors and trustees have not properly held leaders at the school to account for the impact of their work.

As Regional Schools Commissioner, I need to be satisfied that the trust has capacity to deliver rapid and sustainable improvement at the academy. If I am not satisfied that this can be achieved, I will consider whether to terminate the funding agreement in order to transfer the academy to an alternative academy trust.

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. You should provide assurances that all schools within Yorkshire Causeway Schools Trust have a robust safeguarding culture and practices in place, as well as detail on what is happening at a trust level to rectify these issues in addition to the actions specifically in place at St Aidan's.

Please provide me with any representations you wish to make by Friday 4 March 2022.

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

Yours sincerely



Katherine Cowell

Regional Schools Commissioner, North

CC: National Schools Commissioner, Ofsted, Diocese of Leeds and North Yorkshire County Council.

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