



Department
for Education

**Bishopsgate House
Feethams
Darlington
DL1 5QE**

Direct line: [REDACTED]

The Proprietor
The Shires
Shires Lane
Stretton
Rutland
LE15 7GT

[REDACTED]
Our ref: 857/6004

Date: 16 March 2018

Dear Proprietor

I refer to the inspection by the Office for Standards in Education, Children's Services and Skills (Ofsted) that was carried out at the above school under section 109 of the Education and Skills Act 2008 on 12 December 2017. You will see from the enclosed report that Ofsted noted serious regulatory failings.

Taking account of the report the Secretary of State is satisfied, pursuant to section 114(1) of the Education and Skills Act 2008, that any one or more of the independent school standards¹ is or are not being met in relation to the school.

In these circumstances I enclose a Notice, served by the Secretary of State for Education under section 114(5) of the 2008 Act, requiring an Action Plan which details the steps that will be taken to meet all of the standards set out in the Annex to the Notice and the time by which each step will be taken, to be submitted by 16 April 2018.

You are reminded that the independent school standards require that a copy of the inspection report is sent to parents and a copy is published on the school's website or, where no such website exists, is provided to parents on request. This will be checked at the next inspection.

The Action Plan must contain reasonable timescales for implementation within which the necessary action will be taken and it is expected that the implementation dates given in the Action Plan should not extend beyond 16 June 2018. A template and supporting advice is enclosed which may help you in drawing up a satisfactory Action Plan.

The deadline by which the Action Plan must be received by me is 16 April 2018. If this date is not met, the Secretary of State may remove the school from the Register of Independent Schools or may impose a requirement restricting the school's operations (from a date following the period during which you may appeal).

¹ [The Education \(Independent School Standards\) Regulations 2014 \(SI 2014/3283\)](#)

I must warn you that the Secretary of State may reject an Action Plan, and in these circumstances the Secretary of State may remove the school from the Register of Independent Schools or may impose a requirement restricting the school's operations (from a date following the appeal period).

If an Action Plan is accepted, Ofsted may be asked to visit the school again to check that the school has fully implemented the plan and that it is fully meeting the independent school standards.

You may wish to note that this letter, the enclosed Notice and Annex will be published shortly on the Gov.uk website.

Yours faithfully



Independent Education and Boarding Team

SECTION 114(5) OF THE EDUCATION AND SKILLS ACT 2008

NOTICE BY THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR EDUCATION

**IN RELATION TO
The Shires, Shires Lane, Stretton, Rutland, LE15 7GT
("the School")**

WHEREAS


The Secretary of State for Education, being the keeper of the register of independent schools in England² –

- (i) has taken into account a report in respect of an inspection of the School by Her Majesty's Chief Inspector of Education, Children's Services and Skills which was conducted on 12 December 2017; and
- (ii) is satisfied that the independent school standards, as prescribed in the Education (Independent School Standards) Regulations 2014, specified in the Annex to this Notice are not being met in relation to the School.

NOW THEREFORE

In exercise of the power conferred upon him by section 114(5) of the Education and Skills Act 2008, the Secretary of State serves the following Notice on the proprietor of the School:

- (1) the independent school standards set out in the Annex to this Notice are not being met in relation to the School; and
- (2) the proprietor of the School is required to submit an action plan³ to the Secretary of State specifying the steps that will be taken to meet the standards, and the time by which each step will be taken, on or before 16 April 2018.


Independent Education and Boarding Team

Date 16 March 2018

² The Secretary of State is required to keep a register of independent educational institutions in England under section 95(1) of the Education and Skills Act 2008. "Independent educational institution" is defined in section 92(1) of that Act as an independent school and an independent provider of part-time education. Independent providers of part-time education are not currently regulated so effectively the requirement under section 95(1) is for the Secretary of State to keep a register of independent schools.

³ An action plan is defined in section 114(4) of the Education and Skills Act 2008.

ANNEX TO NOTICE

The Shires, Shires Lane, Stretton, Rutland, LE15 7GT
("the school")

The following independent school standards, as prescribed in the Schedule to the Education (Independent School Standards) Regulations 2014, are not being met in relation to the school:

PART 3: Welfare, health and safety of pupils

6. *The standards about the welfare, health and safety of pupils at the school are those contained in this Part.*

7. The standard in this paragraph is met if the proprietor ensures that—

(a) arrangements are made to safeguard and promote the welfare of pupils at the school; and

(b) such arrangements have regard to any guidance issued by the Secretary of State.

16. The standard in this paragraph is met if the proprietor ensures that—

(a) the welfare of pupils at the school is safeguarded and promoted by the drawing up and effective implementation of a written risk assessment policy; and

(b) appropriate action is taken to reduce risks that are identified.

PART 6: Provision of information

32. (1) The standard about the provision of information by the school is met if the proprietor ensures that—

(b) the information specified in sub-paragraph (3) is made available to parents of pupils and parents of prospective pupils and, on request, to the Chief Inspector, the Secretary of State or an independent inspectorate.

(3) The information specified in this sub-paragraph is—

(f) details of the complaints procedure referred to in paragraph 33, and the number of complaints registered under the formal procedure during the preceding school year.

PART 7: Manner in which complaints are handled

33. The standard about the manner in which complaints are handled is met if the proprietor ensures that a complaints procedure is drawn up and effectively

implemented which deals with the handling of complaints from parents of pupils and which—

(j) provides for a written record to be kept of all complaints that are made in accordance with sub-paragraph (e) *[that is to say: (e) where the parent is not satisfied with the response to the complaint made in accordance with sub-paragraph (d), establishes a formal procedure for the complaint to be made in writing. The meaning of sub-paragraph (d) is (the procedure) allows for a complaint to be made and considered initially on an informal basis]*

and—

(ii) action taken by the school as a result of those complaints (regardless of whether they are upheld).

PART 8: Quality of leadership in and management of schools

34. (1) The standard about the quality of leadership and management is met if the proprietor ensures that persons with leadership and management responsibilities at the school—

(a) demonstrate good skills and knowledge appropriate to their role so that the independent school standards are met consistently;

(b) fulfil their responsibilities effectively so that the independent school standards are met consistently; and

(c) actively promote the well-being of pupils.

(2) For the purposes of paragraph (1)(c) “well-being” means well-being within the meaning of section 10(2) of the Children Act 2004⁴.

⁴ 2004 c.31.