



Department
for Education

Lisa Mannall
Regional Schools Commissioner for the South West
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Bristol
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Chair of Trustees [REDACTED] and CEO [REDACTED] The White Horse Federation
The White Horse Federation Head Office
Plymouth Street
Swindon
Wiltshire
SN1 2LB

13 June 2018

Dear [REDACTED]

Minded to Terminate Letter to The White Horse Federation in respect of Gloucester Academy

In accordance with section 2A 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 29 May 2018 confirming that Gloucester Academy was judged inadequate and requires special measures.

Of serious concern are Ofsted's conclusions that:

- The attendance of pupils is too low, especially of the most vulnerable pupils.
- Too often teaching is weak and poorly matched to the needs of pupils. Leaders, including middle leaders, are not effectively holding teachers to account for weak outcomes.
- Leaders' plans to improve the progress of disadvantaged pupils and those who have special educational needs (SEN) and/or disabilities have had little impact.
- The most able pupils, including those who are disadvantaged, are not stretched and challenged in their work and are making the least progress of all groups in the school.
- Safeguarding is not effective. Leaders have failed to follow the correct procedures for ensuring the safety of pupils on a regular basis.
- Leaders have not promoted pupils' spiritual, moral, social and cultural development effectively. Too many pupils are not aware of fundamental British values. As a result, pupils are not prepared well for life in modern Britain.

As the Regional Schools Commissioner acting on behalf of the Secretary of State, I know you understand that I need to be satisfied that the Trust will support Gloucester Academy to achieve rapid and sustained improvement. If I am not satisfied this can be achieved I will consider issuing a Termination Warning Notice in respect of the Supplemental Funding Agreement for the Academy.

We met to discuss Gloucester Academy on 22 May 2018. We spoke about your plans to provide this rapid and sustainable improvement and analysed your proposed '100 day recovery plan', which you sent prior to our meeting. I was pleased to note that you have allocated additional Trust resource to achieve the required progress and are in the process of recruiting a new Headteacher.

I would be grateful for a further progress update to the 100-day plan before July 10 2018. I know that the Trust has in place a proposal to commission an external review, as soon as possible, of the school's use of pupil premium funding, as recommended by Ofsted.

I will ask my Deputy Director, [REDACTED], to arrange to meet with you both in the autumn term to monitor progress.

Please respond to me within fifteen working days of the date of this letter, copied to [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] confirming that you will complete the above actions in the timescales suggested.

I am copying this letter to the National Schools Commissioner.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Lisa Mannall', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Lisa Mannall

Regional Schools Commissioner for the South West

CC to [REDACTED]

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