

The Members and Trustees of Steiner Academy Exeter  
Steiner Academy Exeter  
Thomas Hall  
Cowley Bridge Road  
Exeter  
EX4 5AD

26 September 2018

Dear [REDACTED]

**Minded to Terminate Letter to the Members and Trustees of the Steiner Academy Exeter**

Steiner Academy Exeter was judged to require improvement by Ofsted on 28 June 2017. My office has subsequently been informed of significant concerns about safeguarding, governance, and provision for pupils with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND). As the Regional Schools Commissioner acting on behalf of the Secretary of State, I need to be satisfied that this academy has the governance capacity to ensure the safety of its pupils and deliver rapid and sustained improvement.

You may take this letter to constitute a written notice on behalf of the Secretary of State that the department is concerned—

- i. That there has been a serious breakdown in the way the academy is managed or governed; and
- ii. That the safety of pupils or staff of the academy is threatened.

In order to be reassured that the academy has the capacity to improve I will need to receive in response to this notice:

- A copy your of Post-Inspection Action Plan;
- A copy of the trust's Scheme of Delegation for governance powers, and a short biography detailing the relevant skills and role of each individual in the trust's governance structure;
- Terms of reference for externally-commissioned reviews of governance, safeguarding, and provision for pupils with SEND. Once complete, I will need to receive a copy of the final report and the trust's action plan in response.

If I am not satisfied that these concerns can be appropriately addressed in a timely

manner, I will consider issuing a Termination Warning Notice.

In order to support you in achieving the required improvements and ensure that the Trust makes the rapid progress required I request that the trust:

- Commissions continued support from a National Leader of Governance for the Chair of Trustees and wider board;
- Agrees to meet with my office this half-term for a formal review of the trust, with the Principal and Chair of Trustees to attend (date previously confirmed for 31 October);
- Agrees that an official from my team is invited to attend all trustee meetings in an observer capacity for the remainder of the 2018/19 academic year;
- Recruits at least two additional trustees with expertise in governance and safeguarding, and whose expertise is assessed as sufficient by my office prior to their appointment; and
- Explores options with my office to collaborate and share best practice with regional multi-academy trusts (MATs).

Please respond to me by no later than **Tuesday 16 October**, copied to [REDACTED] Deputy Director in my office [REDACTED], and [REDACTED], Delivery Team Lead for Devon, Plymouth, and Torbay [REDACTED], outlining the actions that you will be taking to remedy the matters identified above.

I am copying this letter to the National Schools Commissioner, the Local Authority, and my regional counterparts in Ofsted and the Education & Skills Funding Agency. This letter will also be published on gov.uk. We aim to do this within 15 working days of the date of this letter.

Yours sincerely



**Lisa Mannall**  
**Regional Schools Commissioner for the South West**

cc  
Dominic Herrington, National Schools Commissioner

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]