



Department
for Education

The Members and Trustees of Academies Enterprise Trust
Academies Enterprise Trust
3rd Floor, 183 Eversholt Street
London
NW1 1BU

13th March 2019

Dear [REDACTED]

Minded to Terminate Letter to the Members and Trustees of Academies Enterprise Trust in respect of Offa's Mead Academy

I am writing this letter on behalf of both myself, and the National Schools Commissioner, Dominic Herrington.

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.

We received an Ofsted notification dated 18 January 2019 confirming that Offa's Mead Academy was judged to be inadequate and requires special measures. Of serious concern were Ofsted's conclusions that:

- The legacy of weak teaching and assessment evident over the last two years has led to significant gaps in pupils' knowledge, understanding and skills. Current teachers are still trying to 'unpick' the significant gaps in pupils' learning. When planning lessons, teachers do not have an accurate knowledge of what pupils can and cannot do. As a result, pupils do not develop their knowledge, understanding or skills as well as they should.
- There is a poor culture of safeguarding across the school. Pupils do not feel safe in school because of the attitudes and behaviour of others. Parents expressed several concerns about their children's safety and well-being although they recognise that 'things are much better this term'.
- The trust has not been effective in supporting improvement in the school. Trust leaders recognise that the school is providing an inadequate education. While some decisive action has been taken to remedy staffing issues, overall

the trust's actions aimed at improvement have not been implemented quickly enough.

As the National and Regional Schools Commissioners acting on behalf of the Secretary of State, we need to be satisfied that this academy can achieve rapid and sustained improvement. If we are not satisfied this can be achieved, we will consider issuing a Termination Warning Notice.

You met the National Schools Commission and Deputy South West RSC, Hannah Woodhouse on 5th March to discuss the position with the school. We discussed an overview of the support you have in place.

In order to be satisfied that adequate plans and progress will be secured, I will require:

- a copy your of Post-Inspection Action Plan
- to hold a termly update on the implementation of improvement actions and the progress being made, in conjunction with National and Complex Case Unit
- evidence of the improvement pupils are making, in particular year 6 pupils and those receiving pupil premium funding,
- a satisfactory section 8 report from Ofsted indicating improvements are being demonstrated.

Please respond to us within fifteen working days of the date of this letter, copied to [REDACTED], Deputy Director in the South West RSC Office and [REDACTED], Delivery Team Lead for Bristol, Gloucestershire and South Gloucestershire [REDACTED] outlining the actions that you will be taking to remedy the matters identified above.

I am copying this letter to the Local Authority. 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

[REDACTED]



Dominic Herrington
National Schools Commissioner