



Department  
for Education

**Dominic Herrington**  
**National Schools Commissioner**  
**Sanctuary Buildings**  
**Great Smith Street**  
**London**  
**SW1P 3BT**

[REDACTED]

The Members and Trustees of Falmouth MAT  
c/o [REDACTED], Chair of Trustees  
Falmouth MAT  
Trescobeas Road  
Falmouth  
Cornwall  
TR11 4LH

5 July 2019

Dear [REDACTED]

**Termination Warning Notice to the Members and Trustees of the Falmouth Multi Academy Trust in respect of Falmouth School**

In accordance with section 2A of the Academies Act 2010<sup>i</sup> 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 20<sup>th</sup> June confirming that Falmouth School has been judged to be inadequate and has serious weaknesses. Of serious concern were Ofsted's conclusions that:

- Leadership and management are inadequate. Leaders have not always acted in pupils' best interests when taking them off the school roll. Such removal is 'off-rolling' according to Ofsted's definition. In some cases, the removal from the roll was against the wishes of the family, the advice of the local authority and the professional judgement of other agencies.
- The quality of governance is weak. Governors do not hold leaders to account sufficiently for key aspects of the school's work
- Leaders have failed to engage effectively with external agencies to ensure the well-being of pupils.
- Leaders do not have a strategic oversight of the reasons why a larger than usual number of pupils leave the school other than at the end of Year 11.

- Leaders have failed to foster a climate based on positive relationships. Too many parents, pupils and staff express dissatisfaction with aspects of the school's provision.
- Leaders' self-evaluation clearly outlines what is to be achieved. However, it is less clear how this will be done and the impact of individual strategies to achieve these aims.
- Leaders' overview of the effectiveness of the provision in place for pupils with special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND) is weak. The support provided for these pupils is not systematically planned, reviewed or evaluated.
- There is a lack of analysis of the patterns of bullying or derogatory behaviour. Therefore, leaders are unclear as to the frequency of these incidents and whether they have been resolved.

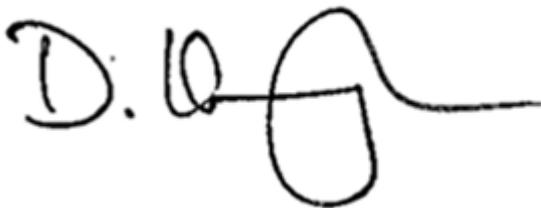
I appreciate that the report identifies a number of strengths at the school, particularly the quality of teaching, learning and assessment which has led to good academic outcomes, including at sixth form.

On the basis of the evidence provided by Ofsted, I am now issuing this Termination Warning Notice because I have serious concerns that both the academy's governance and management, are unlikely to improve rapidly and sustainably without further intervention.

In making the decision on whether to terminate the funding agreement I will consider any written representations you wish to make. Please provide me with any representations you have by 26<sup>th</sup> July along with the post-Ofsted action plan, copied to [REDACTED]

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,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'D. Herrington', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

**Dominic Herrington**  
**National Schools Commissioner**

cc: [REDACTED]