



Department  
for Education

**Department for Education**

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Ms Caroline Whalley C.B.E  
Chair  
Elliot Foundation  
Pyramid House  
252b Gray's Inn Road  
London  
WC1X 8JT

21 May 2019

Dear Ms Whalley C.B.E

**Minded to Terminate Letter to the Members and Directors of the Elliot Foundation in respect of Ramnoth Junior School (the “Academy”)**

In accordance with section 2A of the Academies Act 2010<sup>1</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 13 May 2019 confirming that Ramnoth Junior School was judged to be inadequate and requires special measures. Of serious concern were Ofsted's conclusions that:

- leaders and the trust have been too slow to take action to halt the decline in standards and the current quality of leadership and management is fragile and fragmented
- most leaders are unclear about the extent and impact of their role, this hinders them from taking effective action to improve outcomes and a significant number of staff feel their contribution to school improvement is not heard
- many leaders' evaluations of the school's overall effectiveness and the quality of leadership, teaching, learning and assessment are overgenerous
- leaders have failed to hold teachers appropriately to account for pupils' progress and expectations of what pupils should achieve are frequently too low and weak progress and performance too often go unchallenged
- the school's curriculum is too narrow and pupils do not access a breadth and depth of knowledge and skills in different subjects

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<sup>1</sup> Inserted by section 14 of the Education and Adoption Act 2016

- too few pupils work at or above the standard expected for their age group in reading, writing and maths, and pupils' underachievement is widespread across the school
- pupil premium funding has not been used effectively in both promoting and in ensuring that disadvantaged pupils make good enough progress

As Regional Schools Commissioner, I must be satisfied that the Academy can achieve rapid and sustained improvement. If I am not satisfied that this can be achieved I will consider a Notice of Termination in accordance with Section 2A of the Academies Act 2010.

I would be grateful for the following evidence, which I will take into account when assessing whether the Academy is making sufficient improvements:

- the Post Inspection Action Plan (updated)
- information on the progress of pupils and the action being taken to support education improvements
- an update on progress on governance following the disbanding of the local governing body in February 2019
- an update on progress of any external review of the use of pupil premium funding
- any additional information you consider would be helpful to me

Please supply the requested information by 7 June 2019 to [RSC.EASTNELONDON@education.gov.uk](mailto:RSC.EASTNELONDON@education.gov.uk).

I intend to proceed in the following way: an initial meeting with the Trust by 28 June 2019 and reviews of progress against the Post Inspection Action Plan on a half termly basis.

I am copying this letter to the National Schools Commissioner and the DCS of the local authority. This letter will be published on [www.gov.uk](http://www.gov.uk).

Yours sincerely



**Sue Baldwin**  
**Regional Schools Commissioner for East of England and North East London**

CC: Dominic Herrington, National Schools Commissioner  
Mrs Wendi Ogle-Welbourn, Interim Executive Director: Children, Families and Adults Services, Cambridgeshire County Council