



Department
for Education

Regional Schools Commissioner's Office
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The Members and Trustees of Cavendish Learning Trust
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1st October 2019

Termination Warning Notice to the Members and Trustees of the Cavendish Learning Trust in respect of Whitecotes Primary 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 12th September 2019 confirming that Whitecotes Primary Academy was judged to be inadequate and has serious weaknesses which require significant improvement.

In the Ofsted inspection report, Ofsted highlighted a number of concerns, including, that:

- Leaders have not ensured that teaching and learning have improved sufficiently or fast enough to help pupils catch up and to halt the decline in standards in key stage 2.
- The level of persistent pupil absence is too high and is impacting on the progress of pupils that do not attend regularly.
- The governing body have not been effectively informed about the quality of teaching by senior leaders, which has prevented them from being held to account.
- Support has not been put in place for pupils who find it difficult to control their behaviour and statutory paperwork relating to exclusion of pupils is not completed.

- The curriculum is not planned well enough to meet the needs of the most and least able students which affects their progress.
- Until recently the Trust have been ineffective in supporting school improvement.

Since joining Cavendish Learning Trust in September 2016, the performance of pupils at Whitecotes Primary Academy has been inconsistent, with progress and expected standards in reading, writing and maths below both LA and national averages. The percentage of pupils meeting the expected standard at Key Stage 2 in 2018 was 31% which was a decrease from 38% in 2017.

Having reviewed the report, I have concerns about the ability of the trust to deliver the required improvements in a rapid and sustained manner.

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 22nd October 2019.

I am copying this letter to the National Schools Commissioner.

Yours sincerely



John Edwards
Regional Schools Commissioner for East Midlands and Humber

CC: Dominic Herrington, National Schools Commissioner; Derbyshire County Council

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