



Department
for Education

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The Members and Trustees of Cavendish Learning Trust
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01 October 2019

Termination Warning Notice to the Members and Trustees of the Cavendish Learning Trust in respect of Poolsbrook 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 20 May 2019 confirming that Poolsbrook Primary Academy is judged to be inadequate and requires special measures.

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

- Leaders of the trust and governors responded slowly to address weaknesses in leadership. As a result, the school's performance declined.
- The curriculum is narrow. Leaders have not ensured that pupils gain a wide range of subject-specific knowledge and skills.
- Subject leaders do not have a good enough knowledge of the strengths and weaknesses in their subjects to be able to drive improvement.
- Assessments made at the end of early years and key stage 1 are not reliable.
- Too few pupils reach the expected or higher standards at the end of key stage 2.
- In some classes, expectations for pupils are too low. Where teachers do not challenge poor-quality work, pupils continue to make basic errors.

It has also been the case that the standards of performance of pupils at Poolsbrook Primary Academy are unacceptably low. Cavendish Learning Trust has been accountable for the academy since September 2016. The academy was below the floor standard in 2018. The percentage of pupils meeting the expected standard at Key Stage 2 in reading, writing and mathematics in 2018 was significantly below the national average at 25% and is in the lowest 10% nationally.

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