



Department
for Education

Department for Education

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The Members and Directors/Trustees of REAch2 Academy Trust
Scientia Academy, Mona Road
Burton-Upon-Trent
DE13 0UF

3 January 2020

Dear Mr King,

Minded to Terminate Letter to the Members and Directors of REAch2 Academy Trust in respect of Sprites Primary Academy

In accordance with section 2A of the Academies Act 2010¹ any funding agreement of an academy may be terminated by the Secretary of State where an inadequate judgment has been given to an academy or where 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 October 2019 confirming that Sprites Primary Academy in Suffolk was judged to be Inadequate. This is of serious concern following the previous Inadequate judgement in May 2018, with many of the original Ofsted findings disappointingly remaining and, signs of progress reported by Ofsted in the January monitoring visit not being sustained through the summer term.

Of serious concern are Ofsted's conclusions that:

- too many pupils behave poorly which disrupts learning;
- pupils do not achieve well enough at the end of key stages 1 & 2;
- poorly planned and delivered curriculum, does not meet the needs of pupils including pupils with SEND;
- weak teaching;
- low expectations for pupils;
- lack of training and support, to enable teachers to effectively help pupils with SEND.

Based on the information in the Ofsted report, particularly in relation to the trust failing to secure improvements since the previous inspection, if I am not satisfied with progress, I will consider issuing a Termination Warning Notice that could lead to formal termination of the Supplemental Funding Agreement.

¹ Inserted by section 14 of the Education and Adoption Act 2016

You have recruited an experienced head teacher who will be fully deployed at Sprites. This action is necessary but not sufficient and I expect the following conditions to be met before I am satisfied with progress:

- All subsequent monitoring inspections by Ofsted to show that leaders at the academy and the trust are taking effective action to secure improvements at the school;
- Pupil outcomes at key stages 1 and 2 to improve and meet targets as detailed in the 'statement of action November 2019';
- Information on the progress of pupils and the action being taken to support educational improvements.

We will continue to monitor progress and performance of Sprites through at least termly review meetings, the first of which will be in March 2020, which my office will arrange.

We may request observation at a trustee board meeting in the future. The Trust have agreed to send copies of reports and minutes from the equivalent of the IEB and Risk and Audit committee; please send these to [REDACTED]

We are copying this letter to the CEO of the REAch2 Academy Trust, Suffolk County Council, National Schools Commissioner, and our regional counterparts in Ofsted, and the Education & Skills Funding Agency. This letter will be published on www.gov.uk.

Yours sincerely,



Sue Baldwin
Regional Schools Commissioner
East England and North-East London

CC: Sir Steve Lancashire, Chief Executive Officer, REAch2 Academy Trust
Allan Cadzow, Corporate Director for Health, Wellbeing & Children's Services,
Suffolk County Council
Dominic Herrington, National Schools Commissioner
Paul Brooker, Regional Director for East of England, Ofsted
Judy Anckorn, Deputy Director, Education & Skills Funding Agency

