



**Regional Schools Commissioner for Lancashire & West
Yorkshire**

Department for Education
Piccadilly Gate
Store Street
Manchester
M1 2WD

LWY.RSC@Education.gsi.gov.uk

██████████ Chair of Governors
Merton Bank Primary School
Roper Street
St Helens
WA9 1EJ

Via email to: ██████████

12 May 2016

Warning Notice to Merton Bank Primary School GB

Dear Chair of Governors

I am the Regional Schools Commissioner responsible for tackling underperformance in the Lancashire & West Yorkshire region.

I am writing under section 60 of the Education and Inspections Act 2006 (as amended by the Education and Adoption Act 2016) to issue a performance, standards and safety warning notice to your governing body because standards of performance of pupils at the school are unacceptably low and are likely to remain so unless I exercise powers under part 4 of the 2006 Act.

Information about how local authority and Secretary of State powers and duties in respect of schools causing concern may be exercised is set out in the [Schools Causing Concern guidance](#).

The evidence on which I base this conclusion is the school's performance in the 2015 Key Stage 2 results. 61% of pupils achieved level 4 or above in reading, writing and mathematics combined. The percentage of pupils who made expected progress in reading (86%), writing (95%) and maths (81%) was also below the median. The 2015 national median averages for Key Stage 2 were reading 94%, writing 97% and

maths 93%. This is a level of performance below the Government's floor standards in 2015 which were 65% for primary schools. In addition, Ofsted inspected the school in May 2015 and judged it to "Require Improvement", including quality of teaching, achievement of pupils and early years provision.

Taking these factors into account, I am satisfied that the standards of performance of pupils at the school are unacceptably low and are likely to remain so.

I require the governing body to send me information about the specific reasons for the unacceptably low standards and what action the school has taken, and is taking to address them. In particular, I would like to be reassured that the governing body and the senior leadership team of the school can demonstrate that they:

- have a very clear grasp of the weaknesses that need to be addressed;
- understand the interventions necessary to tackle these weaknesses;
- can explain what steps have already been put in place to secure rapid improvement and what impact such steps have had, in particular what impact such steps will have on the performance of the school;
- can set out what further steps are proposed, when and what impact they expect the proposed steps to have; and
- are actively considering joining a strong local Multi Academy Trust in order to sustain and/or speed up those improvements.

Please can you send me this information by 3 June 2016.

If I am satisfied with the information you provide and am reassured about the plans in place to achieve the required improvements, I will not take any further action (unless circumstances change) until it has been possible to reflect on your school's performance based on 2016 results.

If the information provided is not sufficiently reassuring or convincing, I will consider whether to use the Secretary of State's intervention powers set out in sections 66A-69 of the 2006 Act and section 4 of the Academies Act 2010, namely:

- Section 66A – power to require governing body to enter into arrangements;
- Section 67 – power to appoint additional governors;
- Section 68 – power to direct closure of a school;
- Section 69 – power to appoint an interim executive board (IEB);
- Section 4 Academies Act – power to make an academy order.

I would be grateful if you could send your comments to:

LWY.RSC@education.gsi.gov.uk.

I have already informed St Helens LA about my plans to issue this warning notice and am sending a copy of this letter to the Director of Children's Services. I am also sending a copy of the letter to the headteacher of Merton Bank Primary School and the Chief Inspector.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'V. Beer', with a long, sweeping horizontal line underneath.

VICKY BEER CBE

Regional Schools Commissioner - Lancashire & West Yorkshire