



Education
Funding
Agency

Education Funding Agency
Sanctuary Buildings
Great Smith Street
London
SW1P 3BT
Tel: 0370 000 2288

[EFA enquiry form](#)

Date: 16 July 2015

Mr P Jacques
The Accounting Officer
All Saints Catholic College
Birch Lane
Dukinfield
Cheshire
SK16 5AP

Dear Mr Jacques

Financial Notice to Improve

I am writing to you in your capacity as the temporary Executive Principal and Accounting Officer of St Anselm's Catholic Multi Academy Trust ("the Trust") to inform you of my decision to issue a Financial Notice to Improve ("the Notice") to the Trust.

This letter and its annex serve as a written notice to improve the financial management, control and governance at the Trust in the light of concern over:

- the fact that the Trust has operated at a deficit since it converted in 2013;
- the internal control environment within the Trust, including a failure to operate appropriate financial controls and address the concerns raised in the 2012/13 and 2013/14 audit management letters;
- an identified failure by the Trust and governing body to ensure that it, and the Trust's managers, have the skills, knowledge and experience to run the Trust, and to ensure appropriate financial oversight; and
- the weak financial position of the Trust, that requires the financial support of the EFA.

Upon receipt of this Notice all of the delegated authorities as identified in the Academies Financial Handbook (AFH) will be revoked, and all transactions by the Trust previously covered by these delegations (regardless of size) must come to the EFA for approval. These delegated authorities shall be returned to the Trust providing that the terms set out in the Notice have been complied with, and continue to be complied with, to the satisfaction of the Secretary of State.

The Trust is required, pursuant to the provisions of the AFH and the funding agreement, to comply with the terms of this Notice. These terms are set out in Annex A.

We will work with you to support and monitor progress towards meeting the requirements associated with this Notice and provide an appropriate financial support package. We will lift the Notice when the requirements set out in the annex have been met. If the Trust fails to comply with all the terms of the Notice the Secretary of State may consider it appropriate to terminate the funding agreement because of such non-compliance.

I should be grateful if you would acknowledge receipt of this letter by email by 21 July to [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] I am copying this letter to Damian Cunningham, the chair of the Trust.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Sue Baldwin', written in a cursive style.

Sue Baldwin
Director, Academies and Maintained Schools Group

cc – Damian Cunningham, Chair of St Anselm's Catholic MAT

Ref SACMATFNTI01

St Anselm's Catholic Multi Academy Trust ("the Trust")

Conditions

1. The Education Funding Agency (EFA) has decided to issue a Financial Notice to Improve (the "Notice"), pursuant to paragraph 1.5.6 of the Academies Financial Handbook 2014, as a consequence of:
 - the Trust's failure to balance its budget;
 - the Trust's failure to submit audited financial statements for the academic year 2013/2014 by relevant deadlines;
 - a failure to operate appropriate financial controls and address the concerns raised in the 2012/13 and 2013/14 audit management letters;
 - an identified failure by the Trust and governing body to ensure that it, and the Trust's managers, have the skills, knowledge and experience to run the Trust, and to ensure appropriate financial oversight; and
 - the Trust's requirement for additional financial support from EFA.
2. The Trust is required to:
 - deliver against the agreed recovery plan to achieve in-year surplus balances in 2014/15 and 2015/16 and to complete repaying the financial support provided by the EFA by 31 August 2016 at the latest;
 - submit all required returns to the EFA by the stipulated deadlines;
 - put in place systems, by 1 October 2015, which address all of the significant deficiencies in internal control identified in the 2013/14 audit management letter; and
 - ensure the operation of a governance structure that fulfils the requirements of the Academies Financial Handbook by 1 September 2015.

Monitoring and Progress

3. The trust is required to meet the specific conditions outlined above to enable the EFA to monitor compliance and progress.
4. The trust must supply the EFA with monthly financial monitoring information by the 20th working day of each month for one year from the date of this Notice. The frequency of the financial monitoring information will be agreed with the trust after this.

5. We expect the Trust to provide quarterly updates on the implementation of the recommendations in the audit management report and the establishment of a new robust governance structure.
6. Should it become evident that the Trust is unlikely to fulfil the conditions and/or requirements set out in this Notice within the above timescales, the EFA will consider the contractual options available.

Compliance and the End of the Notice Period

7. Compliance with this Notice will be demonstrated when:
 - financial recovery consistent with the agreed recovery plan has been sustained until 31 August 2016, as evidenced in the audited financial statements for that year, demonstrating no further requirement for deficit funding
 - no audit qualification or adverse regularity opinions are recorded in the audited financial statements for the year to 31 August 2016
 - a robust governance structure that fulfils the requirements of the Academies Financial Handbook has been operating for at least 12 months.
8. When the Trust meets the conditions outlined in this annex, the Notice will no longer apply and the EFA will write to the Trust again to confirm that the Notice has been lifted.