



Department  
for Education

**Regional Schools Commissioner's Office  
East Midlands and Humber**

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Chair of Governors  
Heritage High School  
Boughton Lane  
Chesterfield  
Derbyshire  
S43 4QG

11 May 2016

### **Warning Notice to Heritage High School (Derbyshire) Governing Body**

Dear Chair of Governors

I am the Regional Schools Commissioner responsible for tackling underperformance in schools in the East Midlands and the Humber 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 and standards warning notice to your governing body because standards of performance 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 4 results. 32% of pupils achieved 5 GCSEs at grades A\*-C including English and mathematics. The percentage of pupils who made expected progress in English (58%) and maths (42%) was also below the national medians. The 2015 national median averages for pupil progress at Key Stage 4 were English – 73%, and maths - 68%. The school's level of performance was below the Government's floor standards in 2015 which were for 40% of pupils to achieve 5 GCSEs including English and maths, and to be at or above the national medians for the expected levels of progress in those subjects. In addition, Ofsted inspected the school on 25 March 2015 and judged it to be "requires improvement", including for leadership and management.

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 10 June 2016.

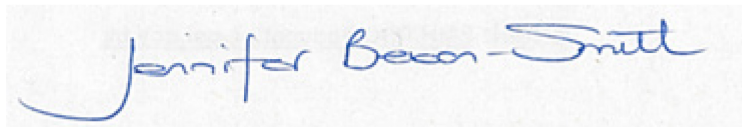
If I am satisfied with the information you provide and am reassured about the plans in place to achieve the required improvements, I will not take any further action (unless circumstances change) until it has been possible to reflect on your school's performance based on 2016 results.

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 and 70C 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 [EMH.RSC@education.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:EMH.RSC@education.gsi.gov.uk). I have already informed the Derbyshire County Council 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 Heritage High School school and the Ofsted Chief Inspector.

Yours sincerely



**JENNIFER BEXON-SMITH**  
**Regional Schools Commissioner, East Midlands and Humber**