



Department  
for Education

Rebecca Clark  
Regional Schools Commissioner for the South West  
2 Rivergate  
Bristol  
BS1 6EH

The Chairman of Directors  
St Boniface House  
Ashburton  
Newton Abbot  
Devon, TQ13 7JL

28<sup>th</sup> November 2016

Dear Sirs,

### **Warning Notice to the Governors of Plymouth CAST**

The Secretary of State is able to issue a Warning Notice to the Board of Directors of the Academy Trust, according to the termination powers in Sections 2A and 2BAA 2010 (introduced by Section 14 of the Education and Adoption Act 2016) which provide for termination powers on grounds that academies in the Trust require special measures or significant improvement. The Secretary of State is also entitled to issue a termination warning notice under the terms of the Funding Agreements for Priors and St. Mary's, if in the Chief Inspector's opinion special measures are required to be taken in relation to the Academy.

This follows the focussed review of Plymouth Catholic and Anglican Schools carried out by Ofsted during the week of 10<sup>th</sup> October 2016, where three of the Trust's schools were placed into Inadequate and three others judged as Requires Improvement.

The purpose of this warning notice is to inform you, as the Directors of Plymouth CAST, that the Secretary of State considers that unless the matters on which our conclusions are based are remedied to the Secretary of State's satisfaction within a reasonable period, the Secretary of State may consider using her intervention powers.

In accordance with the Memorandum of Understanding for Catholic Schools, the RSC notified the Diocesan Schools Commissioner of her intention to issue a Warning Notice and her reasons for doing so. The Diocese has consented in person to take action to remedy the failing of the academies within the Trust. The Trust now needs to amend their school action plan for improvement. This must include:

1. Specific and time bound actions to urgently address the weaknesses in education provision as set out in the Ofsted letter
2. Trust wide independent reviews on safeguarding, pupil premium and governance
3. Clarity around lines of accountability and roles and responsibilities of the Trust

leaders and the Board

**Terms of the warning notice**

The Secretary of State requires the Company to share their amended action plan with me by 16<sup>th</sup> December 2016, setting out the steps the Company will take to address the issues identified by this notice. Should the Company fail to submit the action plan within the compliance period or should the Secretary of State take the view that the action plan submitted fails to satisfactorily address the issues identified in the notice, the Secretary of State shall consider exercising her intervention powers.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'R Clark', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

**Rebecca Clark**  
**Regional Schools Commissioner for the South West**  
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