



Department  
for Education

Rebecca Clark  
Regional Schools Commissioner for the  
South West  
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Bristol  
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The Members and Directors of Plymouth CAST  
St Boniface House  
Ashburton  
Newton Abbot  
Devon, TQ13 7JL

29 June 2017

Dear Sirs,

**Minded to Terminate Letter to the Members and Directors of Plymouth CAST in respect of St Boniface's RC College**

In accordance with section 2A of the Academies Act 2010<sup>1</sup> any funding agreement of an academy may be terminated by the Secretary of State where special measures are required to be taken by the academy or 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.

I received an Ofsted notification dated 19 June confirming that St Boniface's RC College was judged to be inadequate and requires special measures.

I visited St Boniface's in July 2016 and alerted the Trust to the seriousness of the situation that it faced, and the Directors have known that St Boniface's would receive an inspection since the Ofsted focussed inspection in October 2016. The Directors have therefore had a considerable amount of time to address the issues at the academy and yet appear to have secured little or no impact in that time.

Of serious concern are Ofsted's conclusions that:

- The school and trust leadership has demonstrated little capacity to address the school's weaknesses;
- Pupils are underachieving. This underachievement affects disadvantaged pupils, the most able and those pupils who have special educational needs and/or disabilities the most;
- Teaching, learning and assessment are inadequate. The needs of most groups of pupils are not well served in many subjects. Expectations of pupils' achievement are low;
- The curriculum and assessment are inadequate. Courses are not well matched to pupils' needs and aspirations. Assessment information is not used effectively and there is a weak focus on pupils' literacy skills; and
- The culture of safety, safeguarding and welfare is weak.

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<sup>1</sup> Inserted by section 14 of the Education and Adoption Act 2016

You are therefore required to take the following action within the timescales indicated:

- By 20 July 2017, provide evidence of the actions that you will be taking to address the issues identified by Ofsted, explaining how such actions will be implemented, how their effectiveness will be measured and the timescales for this;
- Provide evidence that each of the above actions have been implemented within the timescales identified;
- By 31 October 2017, provide robust evidence that:
  - School leadership is stable and secure;
  - Safeguarding is effective;
  - The quality of teaching and learning, behaviour, and pupil outcomes are all on an improving trajectory with pupil outcomes in all areas on track to be, as a minimum, in line with national averages in 2017/18.

The Trust should supply me with regular, at a minimum monthly, progress reports on the work undertaken and the improvements and outcomes achieved the first of which should be received no later than 1 September 2017. Please copy all responses to me to [REDACTED].

As the Regional Schools Commissioner acting on behalf of the Secretary of State, I need to be satisfied that this academy can achieve rapid and sustained improvement; if I am not satisfied this can be achieved I will consider issuing a Termination Warning Notice, at which stage you will have the opportunity to make representations. If I consider it appropriate I will terminate the funding agreement.

I am copying this letter to Kate Griffin, Neil Maslen, Pat McGovern, Father Mark O'Keefe, Ofsted, Plymouth Local Authority and the National Schools Commissioner.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Rebecca Clark', with a long horizontal line extending from the end of the signature.

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