



Department
for Education

Regional Schools Commissioner for Lancashire & West Yorkshire

Department for Education
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The Members and Directors of
Sandymoor
Wharford Lane,
Runcorn,
Cheshire,
WA7 1QU,

22/06/2018

Dear Mr Eastburn,

Termination Warning Notice to the Members and Directors of Sandymoor Free School

In accordance with section 2A of the Academies Act 2010ⁱ 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.

Following the Ofsted inspection on the 27th February 2018, I received an Ofsted notification dated 3 May confirming that Sandymoor was judged to be inadequate and has serious weaknesses.

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. Following the Ofsted inspection, my Deputy Director, Kate Baddeley met with you and the principal on the 4 May to discuss the steps that the trust have taken since the Ofsted inspection.

It is evident that following the Ofsted inspection, the meeting with my Deputy Director, and further documents that we have received since that meeting, that the trust has not adequately addressed concerns. I am not satisfied that the trust has the capacity to support the rapid and sustained improvement that is required so I am serving you with this Termination Warning Notice.

I am encouraged to hear from the outcome of your recent board meeting, that the board shares the view that Sandymoor would be better placed with a multi-academy trust (MAT). However, I am concerned that the wording of the resolution does not reflect the proper function of the Regional Schools Commissioner.

My team will look for the best possible solution for the academy and in doing so will consider a range of options to ensure the best possible outcome for students. If you are unhappy with these steps, please respond in writing by 13 July 2018. In making the decision on whether to terminate the funding agreement, I will consider any written representations you wish to make.

I am copying this letter to the National Schools Commissioner.

Yours sincerely



Vicky Beer CBE
Regional Schools Commissioner for Lancashire & West Yorkshire

CC: Mil Vasic - Strategic Director, People, Halton Borough Council
Mike Amesbury – MP, Weaver Vale Constituency
David Carter – National Schools Commissioner, Department for Education
Kate Baddeley – Deputy Director, Department for Education
[REDACTED] – Academies Regional Delivery, Department for Education

ⁱ Inserted by section 14 of the Education and Adoption Act 2016