

The Members and Trustees of Steiner Academy Exeter  
c/o [REDACTED]  
Chair of the Academy Management Committee  
Steiner Academy Exeter  
Thomas Hall, Cowley Bridge Road  
Exeter  
EX4 5AD

23 November 2018

Dear [REDACTED],

**Termination Warning Notice to the Members and Trustees of Steiner Academy Exeter**

In accordance with section 2A of the Academies Act 2010<sup>i</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 wrote to the trust on 26 September 2018 indicating that I was minded to terminate the funding agreement of Steiner Academy Exeter as a result of my concerns about safeguarding and governance. I subsequently received an Ofsted notification dated 9 November 2018 confirming that Steiner Academy Exeter was judged to be Inadequate and requires special measures. Of serious concern were Ofsted's conclusions that:

- Leaders have failed to ensure the safety and well-being of pupils;
- Leadership is dysfunctional at all levels of the school;
- Governors have failed in their duty of care towards both adults and pupils;
- Leaders have failed to fulfil their statutory obligations in relation to the special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) code of practice, and teachers are unable to meet the individual needs of pupils who need specialist support;
- Provision for children in the early years (kindergarten) is inadequate and unsafe;
- Attendance is low, particularly for disadvantaged pupils and those with SEND, and management of behaviour is inadequate;
- Teaching is inadequate, and progress in core subjects such as mathematics, reading, and writing have not been prioritised as fundamental to educational well-being.

On the basis of the evidence provided by Ofsted, I am now issuing this Termination Warning Notice because I do not have confidence that the Trust is able to rapidly and

sustainably improve the academy's systems of governance and management, and educational standards. I am therefore minded to terminate the funding agreement of the academy and transfer the school to a strong multi-academy trust that can provide the capacity for continued improvement.

My team will work with you to identify a trust that can provide for the needs of the school and its pupils. In the interim period, I am pleased that Ted Wragg MAT (TWMAT) will be working to support you and the school's leadership team to secure improvement. I strongly recommend the trust works with TWMAT to focus on the priorities we agreed at your trust review of 31 October:

- Ensuring all pupils are safe while in the school's care, and that safeguarding incidents and regularly reported and rigorously checked, with policies up-to-date;
- Creating a strategy to manage the school's high levels of Special Educational Needs;
- Establishing the financial position of the trust, and engaging with the ESFA to maximise use of school resources to drive improvement;
- Increasing the understanding and professionalism of staff and leadership at the academy with regards to the most urgent school improvement priorities, particularly teaching & learning; and
- Developing systems to track attainment and ensure teaching & learning is of a high quality, particularly at Key Stage 4.

I understand that officials from my team will be meeting with you on 13 December, and I would be grateful if you could provide an update on these priorities at that meeting.

In making the decision on whether to terminate the funding agreement, I will consider any written representations you wish to make. Please provide me with any representations you have by 14 December and also share with me a copy of your post-Ofsted action plan, copied to [REDACTED].

I am copying this letter to the National Schools Commissioner and Devon Local Authority. This letter will also be published on gov.uk. We aim to do this within 15 working days of the date of this letter.

Yours sincerely,



**Lisa Mannall**  
**Regional Schools Commissioner for the South West**  
[rsc.sw@education.gov.uk](mailto:rsc.sw@education.gov.uk)

cc

Dominic Herrington, National Schools Commissioner  
[REDACTED]

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