



Department
for Education

Regional Schools Commissioner's Office
South East and South London

Trafalgar House
1 Bedford Park,
Croydon
CR0 2AQ

The Members and Trustees of REAch2 Academy Trust
Scientia Academy, Mona Road
Burton-Upon-Trent
DE13 0UF

28 March 2019

Dear Mr King,

Minded to Terminate Letter to the Members and Trustees of the REAch2 Academy Trust in respect of Copperfield Academy

In accordance with section 2A of the Academies Act 2010¹, any funding agreement of an academy may be terminated by the Secretary of State where special measures are required to be taken in relation to 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.

On 8 March 2019, I received an Ofsted report confirming that Copperfield Academy was judged to be inadequate and requires special measures. Principally, because the academy is failing to give pupils an acceptable standard of education and the persons responsible for leading, managing, or governing the school are not demonstrating the capacity to secure the necessary improvement in the school. Of particular serious concern are Ofsted's conclusions that:

- Over time, the trust has not been effective in supporting the school to improve
- Teaching, learning and assessment in key stages 1 and 2 are inadequate
- Pupils, including pupils with special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND), do not make enough progress in reading, writing and mathematics
- Disadvantaged pupils in key stages 1 and 2 make weak progress because additional funding is not spent effectively

As the Regional Schools Commissioner acting on behalf of the Secretary of State, I need to be satisfied this academy can achieve rapid and sustained improvement. If not, I will consider issuing a Termination Warning Notice.

¹ Inserted by section 14 of the Education and Adoption Act 2016

To this end, I expect to see a number of significant improvements at Copperfield Academy. There are five specific conditions of improvement which, if breached, will cause the Department to consider formal termination of the academy's supplemental funding agreement. These are:

1. That you provide an up-to-date school improvement plan for the school, which demonstrates a clear plan to address the concerns raised by Ofsted.
2. That, consistent with the school improvement plan, pupil outcomes and progress show significant improvements in the 2018/19 academic year.
3. That subsequent monitoring inspections by Ofsted show that leaders at the academy and academy trust are taking effective action towards the removal of the Inadequate designation.
4. That the academy moves out of category at its next Section 5 Ofsted inspection.
5. That no other REAch2 academy in the SESL region is judged Inadequate. It is crucial that standards across the trust's other schools are secure whilst Copperfield is supported to improve.

We request that you provide the formal school improvement plan for the academy and any other representations you wish to make by Tuesday 16 April 2019, copied to Deonne Rowland, Deputy Director, and Alex O'Fee-Worth, National & Complex Case Unit Lead.

We are copying this letter to the CEO of REAch2 Academy Trust, Kent County Council, and our regional counterparts in Ofsted and the Education & Skills Funding Agency. This letter will be published on www.gov.uk.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'D. G.' followed by a stylized flourish.

Dominic Herrington

Regional Schools Commissioner for South East and South London

CC: Sir Steve Lancashire, Chief Executive Officer, REAch2 Academy Trust
Matt Dunkley, Director of Children's Services, Kent County Council
Chris Russell, Regional Director for the South-East, Ofsted
Judy Anckorn, Deputy Director, Education & Skills Funding Agency