



Education & Skills
Funding Agency

Education and Skills Funding Agency
Department for Education
Great Smith Street
Westminster
SW1P 3BT

Tel: 0370 000 2288
[ESFA enquiry form](#)

11 April 2019

Mr Ed Pyke
Chair of Trustees
St Michael's Academy
Grass Royal
Off St Michael's Avenue
Yeovil, Somerset
BA21 4JW

Dear Mr Pyke

Financial Notice to Improve

On 02 February 2018, I wrote to you in your capacity as the Chair of Trustees at St Michael's Academy Trust to serve notice that St Michael's ('the Trust') was required to improve the financial management, financial control and governance at the Trust.

This was as a consequence of the urgency of the request for financial support and the ESFA's concern at the Trust's inability to improve its financial position and set a balanced budget without support. Such non-compliance of the Academies Financial Handbook (AFH) is often indicative of serious financial and/ or governance issues. The Financial Notice to Improve (FNtI) set out the actions that were needed to be taken by the Trust to make sure necessary improvements were made.

We have closely monitored the Trust's progress against the conditions set out in the notice, which included the commissioning of a full and independent review of financial management and governance across the Trust, the provision of the draft Terms of Reference for the review, the preparation and submission of an action plan setting out the steps the trust would take to address the issues identified by the independent review, the preparation and submission of a revised financial recovery plan, and the adoption of the latest Master Funding Agreement. I am pleased to inform you that I am satisfied that all of these conditions have been met. As a result, the FNtI will be lifted with effect from the date of this letter.

This letter will be published on the GOV.UK website. I am copying this letter to Mr Mathew Vella, Accounting Officer of the Trust and Lisa Mannall, Regional Schools Commissioner for the South West of England.

It is important that the Board continues to embed the controls and processes which have led to this improvement, implements the recommendations from its external review of governance, and continues to exercise strong financial oversight at the Trust. Further to this, the trust recognises the value of regular meeting and should continue to promote this as best practice.

I would like to thank you for your contribution in ensuring the Trust has reached this position.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'M. Pettifer', written in a cursive style.

Mike Pettifer
Director, Academies and Maintained Schools Directorate

Cc: Mathew Vella, Accounting officer of the Trust
Lisa Mannall, RSC for the South West of England