



Department
for Education

Department for Education

Eastbrook
Shaftesbury Road
Cambridge
CB2 8DR

rsc.eastnelondon@education.gov.uk

Mr Steve Boor
Chair of Trustees
Bury St Edmunds Academy Trust
Beetons Way
Bury St. Edmunds
IP32 6RF

02 April 2019

Dear Mr Boor

Minded to Terminate Letter to the Members and Trustees of the Bury St Edmunds Academy Trust in respect of Bury St Edmunds County Upper School

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 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 20 March 2019 confirming that Bury St Edmunds County Upper School was judged to be inadequate and has serious weaknesses. Of serious concern were Ofsted's conclusions that:

- Leaders have failed to take all reasonable steps to ensure pupils' safety, have not always followed the appropriate safeguarding procedures in respect of individuals' welfare and do not follow the correct protocols well enough when sharing information about risks to individual pupils' safety
- Leaders' communication and liaison with external agencies have not been effective and information is not shared as readily and fully as it should be
- Leaders have not ensured that levels of site security and supervision are sufficient to prevent unauthorised persons from gaining access to buildings on the school site and some pupils do not feel safe
- Governors do not hold leaders to account for standards in different areas of the school's work robustly enough, including the effectiveness of leaders' arrangements to keep pupils safe and secure
- Governors have an insufficient understanding of the seriousness of local safeguarding risks that potentially face pupils, including 'county lines' drug-dealing and gang-related activity

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

As Regional Schools Commissioner, whilst I note the outstanding elements of the report I must be satisfied that the Academy can achieve rapid and sustained improvement on the concerns raised regarding the effectiveness of leadership and management and personal development, behaviour and welfare. If I am not satisfied that this can be achieved I will consider a Notice of Termination in accordance with Section 2A of the Academies Act 2010.

I would be grateful for the following evidence, which I will take into account when assessing whether the Academy is making sufficient improvements:

- The Post Inspection Action Plan (updated)
- Information on the action being taken to improve safeguarding including communication and liaison with external agencies
- Progress with the implementation of recommendations from any external reviews of governance and site security
- Any additional information you consider would be helpful to me

Please supply the requested information by 25 April 2019 to RSC.EASTNELONDON@education.gov.uk.

I would like to proceed in the following way: an initial meeting with the Trust on 8 May and reviews of progress against the Post Inspection Action Plan on a half termly basis.

I am copying this letter to the National Schools Commissioner and the DCS of the local authority. This letter will be published on www.gov.uk.

Yours sincerely



Sue Baldwin
Regional Schools Commissioner for East of England and North East London

CC: Dominic Herrington, Interim National Schools Commissioner
Sue Cook, Executive Director for People Services, Suffolk County Council