



Department  
for Education

**Department for Education**

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Mr Stewart Taylor  
Chair of Trustees  
Zenith Multi Academy Trust  
C/O The King John School  
Shipwrights Drive  
Thundersley  
Bensfleet  
SS7 1RQ

14 May 2019

Dear Mr Taylor,

**Minded to Terminate Letter to the Members and Trustees of the Zenith Multi Academy Trust in respect of The King John School (the “Academy”)**

In accordance with section 2A of the Academies Act 2010<sup>1</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 received an Ofsted notification dated 03 April 2019 confirming that The King John School was judged to be inadequate and requires significant improvement. Of serious concern were Ofsted’s conclusions that:

- The arrangements for safeguarding are not effective and leaders have not followed statutory guidance to assure pupils’ safety and well-being
- Leaders are not sufficiently proactive in providing the appropriate level of support for the most vulnerable pupils and support for the pupils who have the most complex needs is not effective
- Leaders have an over inflated view of the school’s overall effectiveness and this has limited their ability to tackle weaknesses
- Members of the local governing do not have a thorough understanding of key aspects of the school’s work and do not follow through well enough on their challenges to leaders

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<sup>1</sup> Inserted by section 14 of the Education and Adoption Act 2016

- School leaders do not have high enough aspirations or expectations for pupils' progress and too often pupils do not achieve their full potential by the end of key stage 4
- Leaders and governors are not clear enough about the use and impact of additional funding to help pupils catch up

As Regional Schools Commissioner, I must be satisfied that the Academy can achieve rapid and sustained improvement. 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 progress of pupils and the action being taken to support education improvements
- Information on the action being taken to improve safeguarding
- An update on progress of any external review of governance and of the use of pupil premium funding
- Any additional information you consider would be helpful to me

Please supply the requested information by 31 May 2019 to [RSC.EASTNELONDON@education.gov.uk](mailto:RSC.EASTNELONDON@education.gov.uk).

I intend to proceed by having an initial meeting with the Trust by 21 June; and continuing 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](http://www.gov.uk).

Yours sincerely



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

CC: Dominic Herrington, National Schools Commissioner  
Clare Kershaw, Director Education, Essex County Council