



Department
for Education

Department for Education

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Mr Bernard Dickenson
Chair
Academy Transformation Trust
Jewellery Business Centre
95 Spencer Street
Suite 413
Birmingham
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22 May 2019

Dear Mr Dickenson

Minded to Terminate Letter to the Members and Directors of Academy Transformation Trust in respect of Sutton Community Academy (the “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 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 2 May 2019 confirming that Sutton Community Academy was judged to be inadequate and has serious weaknesses. Of serious concern were Ofsted’s conclusions that:

- trust and school leaders have not fulfilled their statutory duties to ensure that safeguarding arrangements are effective and have not ensured that a culture of safeguarding runs through all aspects of the school’s work
- leaders have not identified safeguarding risks quickly enough and vulnerable pupils have not received the necessary support to protect them from risk
- trust and school leaders do not evaluate the impact of their work well enough and have been slow to act to improve areas identified as weaknesses
- leaders do not take a strategic approach to the use of pupil premium and Year 7 catch-up funding and do not carefully allocate the funding, account for its

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

spending or evaluate the impact

- the quality of teaching, learning and assessment is inconsistent between key stages and subjects and pupils make inconsistent progress across different subjects
- teachers do not have consistently high enough expectations of what pupils are able to achieve, the most able pupils are not always challenged well enough by their work and pupils do not always understand what they need to do to improve their work and to make progress

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)
- the safeguarding policies and processes (including governance arrangements) in operation and action being taken to improve them
- information on the progress of pupils and the action being taken to support education improvements
- an update on progress of any external review of the use of pupil premium
- any additional information you consider would be helpful to me

Please supply the requested information by 12 June 2019 to RSC.EASTNELONDON@education.gov.uk.

I intend to proceed in the following way: an initial meeting with the Trust by 21 June 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, East Midlands and the Humber Regional Schools Commissioner, Education and Skills Funding Agency Academies Director 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, National Schools Commissioner
John Edwards, Regional Schools Commissioner for East Midlands and the

Humber

Mike Pettifer, Director Academies and Maintained Schools, Education and Skills Funding Agency

Colin Pettigrew, Corporate Director for Children, Families and Schools, Nottinghamshire County Council