



Department
for Education

Academies Regional Delivery
Directorate
East Midlands and the Humber

Level 6, St Paul's Place
125 Norfolk Street
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Ashby School
Nottingham Road
Ashby de la Zouch
Leicestershire
LE65 1DT

14/02/2020

Minded to Terminate Letter to the Members and Directors of Ashby School (Trust) in respect of Ashby School (Academy)

In accordance with section 2A of the Academies Act 2010ⁱ 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 30 January 2020 confirming that Ashby School was judged to be inadequate and has serious weaknesses.

In the Ofsted inspection report dated 22 October 2019, Ofsted highlighted a number of concerns around leadership and management, with particular reference to safeguarding, including, that:

“Senior leaders and governors have not met their legal responsibilities to safeguard children.

Leaders have not used their training to keep pupils safe. They do not always follow up concerns raised about a pupil's welfare or seek timely external advice. Pupils' safeguarding records lack detail and some of the leaders' actions are not recorded. Leaders do not complete risk assessments for pupils who are particularly vulnerable. Leaders do not ensure that attendance registers are coded accurately. For example, some pupils were coded as being educated offsite when they were actually onsite.

Leaders have not considered well enough the risks posed by the split site. Staff do not always supervise pupils closely when they cross the road between sites. They do not ensure that pupils get to class as quickly as possible. The procedures to check who is on site, for example in the event of a fire, are not tight enough.”

The Ofsted report has suggested a number of areas that the school needs to focus on in order to bring about improvement at the school. I am therefore requesting that you send me a copy of your Post-Inspection Action Plan.

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

I would therefore like to proceed in the following way:

- Review of progress on a half termly basis
- The Trust should explore options to form or join a multi-academy trust (MAT) in discussion with the Regional Schools Commissioner's office.
- The Trust should work proactively with the Regional Schools Commissioner's office, the local authority and KS3 schools in Ashby/Ibstock to investigate how age-range change in Ashby can be effected.
- I would like to meet with the trust to seek reassurances that it is acting on the issues identified by Ofsted. A member of my team will liaise with you to schedule this.

Please respond to me within fifteen working days of the date of this letter, copied to [REDACTED] outlining the actions that you will be taking to remedy the matters identified above.

I am copying this letter to the National Schools Commissioner.

Yours sincerely

John Edwards
Regional Schools Commissioner
Academies Regional Delivery, East Midlands and the Humber

CC – Ofsted, Leicestershire County Council, [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
Andrew Brigden MP, North West Leicestershire

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