



Department
for Education

Academies Regional Delivery Directorate
East Midlands and the Humber
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The Members and Trustees of St Mary's Catholic Primary School (Maltby)
Muglet Lane,
Maltby,
Rotherham,
S66 7JU

28 August 2020

Dear Members and Trustees,

Minded to Terminate Letter to the Members and Trustees of St Mary's Catholic Primary School (Maltby), a Single Academy Trust.

I write to you in my role as Interim Regional Schools Commissioner (RSC) for East Midlands and the Humber Region.

As you may be aware, RSCs act on behalf of the Secretary of State for Education and have a number of responsibilities. These responsibilities are published on the gov.uk website (<https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/schools-commissioners-group/about>) and one of them is to take action where academies are underperforming.

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 on 22 June 2020 confirming that St Mary's Catholic Primary School (Maltby) was judged to be inadequate and requires special measures. Of serious concern are Ofsted's conclusions that:

- Leaders and governors have not acted swiftly to address weaknesses in the curriculum and have not done enough to improve them
- Leaders do not have a clear picture of what they want pupils to learn
- Subject leadership is weak. Leaders are unclear about how to sequence learning

- Governors have an overly positive view of the rate at which the quality of education is improving
- Pupils do not learn as well as they should. Expectations of pupils are not high enough. Pupils' work across the curriculum is of poor quality. They do not learn to read or write well enough and this makes it difficult for them to learn successfully in other subjects
- The curriculum is not ambitious
- The early years curriculum is not planned well enough to ensure that all children are ready for the start of Year 1.

As the Interim 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.

In making the decision on whether to terminate the funding agreement, I will consider any written representations you wish to make in addition to your Post Ofsted Action Plan.

I would be grateful if you could please respond to me within 15 working days of the date of this letter, copied to [REDACTED] RDD project lead, outlining the actions that you will be taking to remedy the matters identified above.

I would also like to meet with you to discuss your response and my office will be in touch in due course to arrange a suitable date for this.

For information, I am copying this letter to the National Schools Commissioner, Dominic Herrington, so that he is aware of the situation. A copy of this letter will also be published on GOV.UK.

Yours sincerely



Carol Gray
Interim Region Schools Commissioner
Regional Delivery Directorate, East Midlands and the Humber

CC: Dominic Herrington - National Schools Commissioner
 Sally Hodges - Interim Director of Children and Young People's Services,
 Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council

[REDACTED] the Diocese of Hallam