



Department
for Education

Regional Schools Commissioner's Office
Lancashire and West Yorkshire
Piccadilly Gate
Store Street
Manchester M1 2WD

The Members and Directors/Trustees of Education Leadership Trust
Whalley Range 11-18 High School
Wilbraham Rd
Whalley Range
Manchester
M16 8GW

12 March 2020

Dear Dr Johan MacKinnon and Mr Andrew Mullen,

Termination Warning Notice to the to the Members and Directors/Trustees of the Education and Leadership Trust in respect of The East Manchester 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 The East Manchester Academy was judged to be inadequate and requires special measures. Of serious concern were Ofsted's conclusions that:

- The arrangements for safeguarding are not effective and many pupils and some staff do not feel safe in the school. Pupils and staff are at risk of verbal abuse and physical assault.
- Trustees are in breach of their statutory duties in relation to safeguarding and the Equality Act 2010.
- Leaders, including trustees and governors, have not been able to make the school a safe place in which pupils can thrive and achieve well.
- Many pupils behave in an unruly and aggressive way, particularly during social times. Pupils say that there are frequent fights. This means that pupils are not physically safe.
- A very high number of pupils are either excluded from lessons or from the school. Leaders have unlawfully excluded some pupils, who are not attending school while they await alternative arrangements for their education.
- Incidents of racism and homophobia are commonplace. The culture of the school is not kind or accepting of people's differences.

- Pupils with SEND get a particularly raw deal. Often, their needs are not identified effectively. Even when they are, some leaders do not understand how to meet these needs to help pupils be successful. Far too often, these pupils are excluded or placed on inappropriate part-time timetables.
- During their time in the school, pupils do not make good enough progress. They do not achieve well by the end of Year 11.
- Leaders, including trustees and governors, have not demonstrated the expertise or capacity needed to bring about the improvements that this school requires.

On the basis of the evidence provided by Ofsted, I have concerns that the academy's governance, management and educational standards are unlikely to improve rapidly and sustainably without further intervention. As a result of this, I am now issuing this Termination Warning Notice.

In making the decision on whether to terminate the funding agreement I will consider any written representations you wish to make.

Please provide me with any representations you have by 2 April 2020, copied to [REDACTED] and [REDACTED].

I am copying this letter to the National Schools Commissioner, Manchester's Strategic Director of Children and Education Services and the academy's local MP. In addition, this letter will be published in due course on gov.uk.

Yours sincerely



Vicky Beer CBE
Regional Schools Commissioner for Lancashire and West Yorkshire
(CC to [REDACTED],
p.marshall1@manchester.gov.uk, contact@lucypowell.org.uk)

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