



Regulation of school managers and governors: prohibition direction

Name: Abdullah Keekeebhai

Former position: Headteacher, Lantern of Knowledge School, London

Prescribed grounds on which the direction has been issued:

Under section 128 of the Education and Skills Act 2008, the “appropriate authority” (in this case the Secretary of State) may give a direction prohibiting a person from taking part in the management of an independent school on prescribed grounds connected with the person’s suitability. The grounds on which a person may be prohibited are prescribed in the Independent Education Provision in England (Prohibition from Participation in Management) Regulations 2014.

A direction was given in respect of Abdullah Keekeebhai on 24 September 2020. The Secretary of State found that Mr Keekeebhai had:

- engaged in conduct that is so inappropriate;
- and that because of this he is unsuitable to take part in the management of an independent school (including an Academy or Free School). The direction also has the effect of disqualifying Mr Keekeebhai from being a governor at a maintained school.

Summary

In 2017, the police investigated the Lantern of Knowledge School following the arrest of former Islamic studies teacher Umar Haque on suspicion of preparing acts of terrorism. There were concerns he may have exposed children at the school to extremist ideology and presented a radicalisation risk. As headteacher, Mr Keekeebhai had responsibility for safeguarding and failed to discharge his statutory responsibilities by being obstructive to the police investigation causing delays to their enquiries, and displaying a lack of understanding for the potential risk Haque had posed. These delays presented a risk to the effective identification of the potential dangers and necessary remedial action.