



Department
for Education

Regional Schools Commissioner's Office
Regional Delivery Directorate
East Midlands and the Humber
Level 6
St Paul's Place
125 Norfolk Street
Sheffield
S1 2FJ

The Members and Trustees of The Dean Trust
Cecil Avenue
Sale
Cheshire
M33 5BP

10 May 2021

Dear Mr Kapur and Mr McGann

Termination Warning Notice to the Members and Trustees of The Dean Trust in respect of DeanTrust Wigan.

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 16 April 2020 confirming that Dean Trust Wigan was judged to be inadequate. The subsequent report identified a number of areas for improvement such as highlighting that:


- Leaders must make pupils' personal development a higher priority and plan this curriculum carefully so that respect for diversity is regarded highly by pupils.
- Leaders must ensure that teachers use the information that they hold about pupils' needs more effectively so that pupils with SEND learn as well as they should.
- Leaders must help teachers to better manage pupils' behaviour and create classroom environments where pupils can learn.
- Leaders must act to ensure that pupils attend school regularly.
- Many older pupils do not have the necessary prior knowledge they need. This prevents them from applying their learning to more difficult tasks. Leaders must ensure that teachers identify and address the gaps in pupils' knowledge so that they remember more and achieve well in their GCSE examinations.

I am aware that Ofsted also conducted a more recent inspection at Dean Trust Wigan on 2 March 2021 which was limited to the issue of whether the trust is taking

effective action to provide education in the current circumstances I have waited until the publication of this report to ensure the most recent observations and recommendations of Ofsted are also taken into consideration with any decision making. I note that the monitoring report was broadly positive but that its limited scope means that not as much weight is given to this as a usual monitoring report.

On the basis of all the evidence provided by Ofsted, and the discussions you had when you met representatives from the Lancashire and West Yorkshire Regional Schools Commissioner' office on 2 February 2021, as the Regional Schools Commissioner acting on behalf of the Secretary of State, I have concerns about Dean Trust Wigan Academy's educational standards. I need to be satisfied that this academy can achieve significant and rapid improvement. I am concerned that the challenges of COVID around attendance levels and pupils' learning negatively impact the rapid and sustained improvement needed at the school. It will be helpful to better understand the trust's capacity and seek further detail from you on the school's recovery strategy and how this aligns with the school's wider improvement strategy.

As a result, after having temporarily postponed intervention due to the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on education provisions, and the aforementioned inspection on 2 March 2021, 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 within 15 working days of the date of this letter and copy these to 

I am copying this letter to the National Schools Commissioner. A copy of this letter will also be published on GOV.UK.

Please note that I am taking this decision to avoid any potential conflict of interest that Vicky Beer, Regional Schools Commissioner for Lancashire and West Yorkshire, might have due to her previous links with The Dean Trust.

Yours sincerely



Carol Gray
Interim Regional Schools Commissioner for East Midlands & Humber

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