



Department  
for Education

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Ms Worrell  
Apollo Partnership Trust Chair  
The Castle Rock School  
Meadow Lane  
Coalville  
LE67 4BR

9 December 2021

Dear Ms Worrell,

**Termination Warning Notice Letter to the Directors of Apollo Partnership Trust in relation to The Castle Rock School.**

In accordance with clauses 5.F to 5.H of the funding agreement for The Castle Rock School (“the Academy”), the Secretary of State may terminate the funding agreement if the Chief Inspector gives notice to the Academy Trust that special measures are required to be taken by the Academy or the Academy requires significant improvement.

We received an Ofsted notification dated 24 November 2021 confirming that The Castle Rock School had been judged to be inadequate and requires special measures. As a result of this judgement, and for the reasons set out below, we now consider it necessary to issue this Termination Warning Notice in respect of The Castle Rock School. In the Ofsted inspection report, Ofsted highlighted a number of concerns, including that:

- The arrangements for safeguarding are not effective. Too many pupils truant during the school day. Staff do not always know where these pupils are or whether they are safe.
- Too many pupils are frequently absent from school. Leaders should develop strategies to support all pupils, particularly older pupils, to attend regularly.
- Leaders have not ensured that all areas of the site are safe. This poses a potential risk to pupils’ health and safety.
- Those responsible for governance do not recognise the extent of the school’s weaknesses. They do not hold leaders to account effectively and have not ensured that leaders acted quickly enough to stem the school’s decline.

- Leaders have not established a clear, cohesive vision for the curriculum. They have not given subject leaders sufficient guidance on the expectations for the curriculum in their subjects, or on how to design an effective curriculum.
- Subject curriculum plans are poor and incomplete in many subject areas. Pupils have gaps in their learning and do not achieve as well as they should.
- Expectations of pupils' behaviour are not high enough. The policy to manage behaviour is unclear. Staff do not routinely challenge poor behaviour. Learning is often disrupted, and pupils' behaviour is sometimes unsafe.
- Pupils' personal development is not promoted well. They do not receive adequate PSHE education.
- Leaders have not ensured that the requirements of the 16 to 19 study programmes are met. Sixth-form students receive very little PSHE education.

On 22 October 2021, prior to the confirmation of Ofsted's judgement as highlighted above, the Department for Education was notified by Ofsted (form 2) that The Castle Rock School was waiting to be moderated into an Ofsted inadequate category. Since that notification, our team has been in regular contact with you and Julia Patrick, the CEO of Apollo Partnership Trust, to seek reassurance around the immediate safety of children. Through this, we are aware of the immediate measures you have put in place to address safeguarding concerns and we note that the Local Authority have conducted site visits.

We acknowledge the way in which leaders of the trust have engaged with our team since the form 2 notification. However, having now received the final Ofsted report, we are concerned about the ability of the trust to deliver at pace the significant improvements which are required at The Castle Rock School.

As Regional Schools Commissioner, I will now consider formally whether the trust has capacity to deliver rapid and sustainable improvement at the Academy. If I am not satisfied that this can be achieved, I will consider whether to terminate the funding agreement in order to transfer the Academy to an alternative academy trust.

In making the decision on whether to terminate the funding agreement I will consider any written representations you wish to make in response to this Termination Warning Notice. Please provide us with any representations you wish to make by Friday 14 January 2022.

I am copying this letter to the National Schools Commissioner, the Director of Children's Services at Leicestershire Local Authority and Ofsted. A copy of this letter will also be published on GOV.UK.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'K. Copley' or 'C. Gray', with a long horizontal line extending from the end of the signature.

**Kate Copley / Carol Gray**  
**Regional Schools Commissioner (Job Share)**  
**Regional Delivery Directorate, East Midlands and the Humber**