



Department
for Education

Hannah Woodhouse
South West Regional Schools Commissioner
2 Rivergate
Bristol
BS1 6EH

The Members and Directors/Trustees of Horizon Multi Academy Trust

Unit 21
81 Sisna Park Road
Plymouth
PL6 7AE

Via email: [REDACTED]

Copied to [REDACTED], CEO: [REDACTED]

27 January 2022

Dear [REDACTED],

Termination Warning Notice to the Members and Directors/Trustees of the Horizon Multi Academy Trust in respect of Hyde Park Infant School

In accordance with clauses 5.F to 5.H of the Supplemental Funding Agreement (SFA) for Hyde Park Infant 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.

I received an Ofsted notification dated 7 December 2021 confirming that Hyde Park Infant School was judged to be inadequate and has serious weaknesses. For the reasons set out below, I now consider it necessary to issue this Termination Warning Notice.

- Curriculum planning is weak and plans lack ambition leading to children not achieving as well as they should. This is especially apparent for phonics, where many pupils have fallen behind with their reading, including pupils with SEND.
- The early years curriculum in particular does not enable children to gain essential knowledge.

- Senior leaders do not have a considered approach to checking on school improvement, leading to an inaccurate view of the quality of the curriculum.
- Subject leadership is weak and staff have not had any appropriate professional development. Subject leaders are unclear about how to sequence learning to improve knowledge.
- Pupils with SEND and disadvantaged pupils do not receive the support they need. Leaders do not make the necessary checks to determine what these pupils know and understand.

As Regional Schools Commissioner, I need to be satisfied that 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.

I would also be grateful for the following information, which I will consider when assessing whether the Trust is making sufficient improvements at the Academy:

- Information on the action being taken to support education improvements, notably to curriculum planning and the timescales for this work (for example, a post Ofsted action plan).
- School improvement plans, with specific references to the approach for SEND and disadvantaged pupils and timescales for implementation.
- A written summary of leadership, staffing, and governance arrangements at the Academy, and available supportive capacity in the wider Trust.
- Any additional information you consider would be helpful for me.

Please provide me with any representations you wish to make and the information requested above by 17 February 2022.

I am aware that the Trust will be receiving TSI support in early February from [REDACTED] of STEP. As indicated by STEP, they will share their findings with us which will help support my overall assessment.

I am copying this letter to the National Schools Commissioner, Ofsted, and Plymouth City Council. A copy of this letter will also be published on GOV.UK.

Yours sincerely



Hannah Woodhouse
South West Regional Schools Commissioner

CC: Dominic Herrington, National Schools Commissioner;
[REDACTED], CEO, Horizon Multi Academy Trust;

Ofsted;

[REDACTED], Service Director for Education, Participation & Skills, Plymouth
City Council.