



Department
for Education

Regional Director's Office
EENEL Regional Delivery Division
Eastbrook
Shaftesbury Road
Cambridge
CB2 8DR

Georgina Clark (Interim Chair)
ORTU Federation Ltd
Southend Road
Corringham
Stanford-Le-Hope
SS17 8JT

25 July 2022

Dear Ms Clark

Termination Warning Notice to the Members and Directors/Trustees of ORTU Federation in respect of Ortu Gable Hall School.

In accordance with sections 2A and 2D 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 in relation to 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 on 4 May 2022 confirming that Ortu Gable Hall School was judged to have serious weaknesses and requires significant improvement. Ofsted conclude that:

1. Leaders have not secured a robust safeguarding culture. Leaders and staff are not consistently following statutory guidance to protect the most vulnerable pupils. Leaders have not routinely checked on the welfare and well-being of the most vulnerable pupils or put in place appropriate support. Some staff do not have up to date knowledge of their safeguarding duties. Trust leaders need to urgently run further safeguarding training, so that all staff are clear about their roles and responsibilities for the safeguarding of children and follow clear and robust procedures.
2. Safeguarding records are not well maintained. There are gaps in recording, some communication from external agencies is kept in multiple places, and staff are not always noting communications and follow up actions with pupils. This means that leaders do not have a full picture of safeguarding cases where pupils are vulnerable. Leaders and governors must urgently review and improve arrangements for the noting and recording of pupil's welfare and safety.

3. Pupils are not learning what they are entitled to learn in the subjects of computing, modern foreign languages and RE. This is limiting pupils' knowledge and understanding which subsequently affects their future options. Leaders need to review the breadth and ambition of the curriculum so that it is equal to or better than the national curriculum.
4. The development of a reading culture is in its infancy. Some pupils do not value the importance of reading and choose not to read. Leaders have recently introduced a range of strategies to improve this. Leaders should review what is working well and what is not so that further improvements can be made and pupils read well
5. Current arrangements for the delivery of PSHE and RSE and health education are not working well. This is affecting pupils' ability to recall their learning in these areas. Leaders need to press ahead with intended changes so that teachers can teach the curriculum content in depth and pupils learn well

As Regional Director, 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 will allow 15 working days from the date of this letter for written representations. To reflect the seriousness of the judgement, I would ask that you provide me with any representations you wish to make by no later than 15 August 2022.

I am copying this letter to John Edwards (Director General, Regions Group), Sheila Murphy (Corporate Director of Children's Services at Thurrock Council) and Stephen Metcalfe (MP for South Basildon and East Thurrock). A copy of this letter will also be published on GOV.UK.

Yours sincerely

Jonathan Duff
Regional Director for East of England and North East London

CC:

John Edwards (Director General, Regions Group)
Sheila Murphy (Corporate Director of Children's Services at Thurrock Council)
Stephen Metcalfe (MP for South Basildon and East Thurrock)
