



Department
for Education

**Regions Group North East
Bishopsgate House
Feethams, Darlington
DL1 5QE**

The Members and Trustees of Swift Academies
Swift Academies
Croft Road
Hurworth-on-Tees
Darlington
DL2 2JG

8 August 2022

Dear Mr Bell

Termination Warning Notice to the Members and Trustees of Swift Academies (“the Trust”) in respect of Longfield Academy

In accordance with clauses 5F to 5H of the funding agreement for Longfield Academy (“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 in relation to the Academy or the Academy requires significant improvement.

I received an Ofsted notification dated 11 July 2022 confirming that the Academy 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. Of serious concern to me are Ofsted’s conclusions that:

- Pupils’ behaviour at the school has deteriorated following pupils’ return to the school after COVID-19. Although leaders recognised this decline, they have not done enough to tackle poor behaviour, bullying or disruption to lessons;
- Teachers at the school do not consistently get the best out of pupils, with expectations for pupils not set high enough;

- Provision for pupils with SEND is not well developed. As a result, some pupils with SEND cannot access the curriculum as well as their peers, and consequently are not achieving as highly as they could;
- Assessment processes are not well planned with leaders failing to give adequate thought to how assessment data will be used to improve pupil outcomes. This means that staff do not effectively use assessment to identify gaps and help pupils remember as much as they can of what has been taught;
- Implementation of the personal development curriculum requires improvement, with gaps in staff knowledge and inconsistent application of processes affecting delivery. This has led to some pupils having an insecure knowledge of British values and protected characteristics;
- Leaders have not ensured that the school has consistently improved over time, with school improvement plans lacking clear targets or regular review. As such leaders and governors do not have an accurate enough understanding of the school's strengths and weaknesses;
- Leaders do not take into consideration the views and opinions of all staff;
- Trustees and governors do not effectively challenge leaders to improve the school's performance.

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.

Please provide me with any representations you wish to make by 2 September 2022. This deadline is to reflect the stated availability of key personnel during the summer holiday period.

I am copying this letter to the Director General for Regions Group, Ofsted and Darlington Local Authority. A copy of this letter will also be published on GOV.UK.

Yours sincerely



Katherine Cowell
Regional Director, North East

Cc Tony Murphy, Assistant Director Education and Inclusion Darlington Borough Council; Helen Ellison, Head of Education Partnerships, Darlington Borough Council