



Department
for Education

Regions Group North East
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The Members and Trustees of Hope Sentamu Learning Trust
C/O Vale of York Academy
Rawcliffe Drive
Clifton York
YO30 6ZS

4th August 2022

Dear Tony,

Termination Warning Notice to the Members and Trustees of the Hope Sentamu Learning Trust in respect of Archbishop Sentamu Academy

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 dated 29th June 2022 confirming that Archbishop Sentamu Academy was judged to be inadequate. For the reasons set out below, I now consider it necessary to issue this Termination Warning Notice.

- Pupils are concerned about the standards of behaviour, especially out of lessons, in corridors and outside during social times.
- Many staff are equally concerned about pupils' attitudes to education and the lack of respect shown by pupils.
- Standards of behaviour have not improved since the last school inspection, which took place in November 2021.
- Despite leaders' efforts to create a calm and orderly environment, the school's own records indicate concerning, and in many cases rising, occurrences of poor behaviour, removals from lessons, serious incidents, use of internal 'seclusion' facilities and formal suspensions.

- Many incidents of poor behaviour are associated with a lack of respect shown from pupils towards staff.
- Pupils do not attend school regularly enough. Almost half of all pupils have concerning levels of absence.
- Leaders have been slow to introduce extra-curricular opportunities following the disruption caused by the COVID-19 pandemic.

This is the second academy in the trust which has been judged to be inadequate by Ofsted since the completion of your trust merger in September 2021, as Barlby High School was inspected by Ofsted in November 2021 and judged to be inadequate. Combined with the trust's previously inadequate sponsored academies – Graham School and George Pindar School, there are now four academies in the trust which are judged to be inadequate overall.

As Regional Director, I need to be satisfied that the trust has capacity to deliver rapid and sustainable improvement at Archbishop Sentamu 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. I will also be seeking assurances on the wider capacity of the trust, given the number of vulnerable academies that the trust is currently supporting.

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 the trust wish to make by 6th September 2022, to take account of your concerns raised about the availability of key personnel and providing representations during the summer holidays.

I am copying this letter to Ofsted, Hull City Council, CEO of Hope Sentamu Learning Trust and The Diocese of York. A copy of this letter will also be published on GOV.UK.

Yours sincerely,



Katherine Cowell
Regional Director, North East

CC: Ofsted, Kingston Upon Hull Local Authority, CEO of Hope Sentamu Learning Trust and The Diocese of York

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