



Department  
for Education

Regional Schools Commissioner's Office  
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The Members and Trustees of Odyssey Trust for Education  
Townley Grammar School  
Townley Road  
Bexleyheath  
DA6 7AB

12 August 2022

Dear Ms Felicia Squire

**Termination Warning Notice to the Members and Trustees of the Odyssey Trust for Education in respect of King Henry School**

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

I received an Ofsted notification dated 7 July 2022 confirming that King Henry School was judged to be inadequate and requires special measures. For the reasons set out below, I now consider it necessary to issue this Termination Warning Notice.

The Ofsted report highlighted the following weaknesses:

1. Poor behaviour at breaktimes means that some pupils feel unsafe in school. Staff do not feel supported by leaders to manage behaviour around the school.
2. Too many pupils are missing from lessons during the school day. These pupils are not accurately registered and are unsupervised. This compromises the safety of pupils.
3. Members of the governing body and trustees do not have sufficient expertise to support leaders in school improvement. They are unable to sufficiently challenge leaders.
4. The needs of pupils with SEND are not met. Identification and assessment of pupils with SEND is slow. Pupils do not receive the support to which they are entitled.

5. Pupils with weak literacy are not receiving the support they need to develop their reading fluency. The weakest readers are not able to access the curriculum in lessons. They are not prepared for their next steps in education.
6. Reading is not prioritised by leaders. Pupils have little structured reading time and few pupils read for pleasure.
7. Teachers do not check that pupils understand key knowledge in lessons before they move on. Key vocabulary is not embedded and pupils struggle to access more-complex learning.
8. Leaders have been slow to reintroduce enrichment and extra-curricular clubs and trips following the earlier restrictions during COVID-19 pandemic. Outside of sports, few pupils are taking part in learning opportunities that extend beyond the taught curriculum.

I have concerns about the capacity of the trust to deliver rapid and sustainable improvement.

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 the trust wishes to make in response to this Termination Warning Notice.

Please provide me with any representations the trust wishes to make by **Friday 2 September 2022**.

I have noted your letter to me dated 5 July 2022, requesting that King Henry School is transferred to a different academy trust "as soon as this can be arranged".

I am copying this letter to Ofsted; Director of Children's Services, London Borough of Bexley. A copy of this letter will also be published on GOV.UK.

Yours sincerely



**Claire Burton**  
**Regional Schools Commissioner for the South-East and South London**

CC: Ofsted  
Director of Children's Services, London Borough of Bexley