



Department
for Education

Department for Education

Eastbrook
Shaftesbury Road
Cambridge
CB2 8DR



The Members and Trustees of The Active Learning Trust
Littleport and East Cambridgeshire Academy
Camel Road
Littleport, Ely
Cambridgeshire
CB6 1EW

22 June 2022

Dear 

Termination Warning Notice to the Members and Trustees of The Active Learning Trust in respect of Littleport and East Cambridgeshire Academy

In accordance with clauses 5F to 5H of the funding agreement for Littleport and East Cambridgeshire Academy (“the Academy”) the Secretary of State may terminate the funding agreement if the Chief Inspector gives notice to The Active Learning Trust (“the 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 6 June 2022 confirming that Littleport and East Cambridgeshire 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.

- Leaders do not train staff effectively to identify pupils’ needs and support them with their learning. This includes those in the early stages of reading and pupils with SEND. As a result, pupils are not learning as well as they could. Leaders need to improve teachers’ abilities to identify pupils needs and provide necessary support, including for those in the early stages of reading and pupils with SEND.
- Teachers do not know when pupils do not understand or remember aspects of the curriculum. Even when teachers do identify pupils falling behind, they do not provide effective support. Teachers must check what pupils know and can do and take effective steps to help those who start to fall behind, so these pupils learn and achieve well.
- Leaders and staff have not managed the behaviour of pupils effectively. As a

result, pupils experience frequent disruptions to learning. Leaders must design an approach to managing pupils' behaviour that does not lead to pupils left without effective teaching. Leaders must ensure staff consistently follow leaders' approach to behaviour management.

- Many pupils and parents are unhappy with pupils' experiences at school. Leaders must engage much more effectively with parents and pupils. Leaders must create ways of addressing parents' concerns and communicating effective messages to build parents confidence in the school.
- Leaders are making many necessary changes to the school. Staff are finding it difficult to keep up with the resulting increased workload. Leaders must work with teachers to find ways of making the right improvements to the school while maintaining a reasonable workload.

One of the Trust's other academies, Kingsfield Primary School, was judged to be inadequate and requiring special measures in November 2019. Whilst the latest Ofsted monitoring inspection reported that effective action is being taken, I am concerned that this is the second academy at which the Trust has overseen an inadequate judgement.

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 be grateful for the following evidence, which I will take into account, alongside other relevant evidence, when assessing whether the Academy is making sufficient improvements:

- The Post Ofsted Action Plan
- Information on the progress of pupils and the action being taken to support educational improvements and the timescales of this work
- Details of current governance and leadership arrangements, and your plans to secure a permanent accounting officer
- Any additional information you consider would be helpful to me

Please provide me with the evidence requested and any further representations you wish to make by 15 July 2022.

I am copying this letter to Ofsted, and the Director of Children's Services at Cambridgeshire County Council. This letter will be published on www.gov.uk .

Yours sincerely



Jonathan Duff
Regional Schools Commissioner for East of England and North East London

CC: Director of Children's Services, Cambridgeshire County Council