



Department
for Education

**Regional Director's Office
Regions Group North East
Bishopsgate House
Feethams, Darlington
DL1 5QE**

The Members and Trustees of Ironstone Academy Trust
Normanby Primary School
Flatts Lane
Normanby
Middlesbrough
TS6 0NP

8 November 2022

Dear Mr Elliott

Termination Warning Notice to the Members and Trustees of Ironstone Academy Trust (“the Trust”) in respect of Ormesby Primary School

In accordance with clauses 5F to 5H of the funding agreement for Ormesby Primary 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 22 September 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:

- Leaders have not acted swiftly enough to address the significant and recent decline in pupils' behaviour. The behaviour policy is not being implemented with consistency. Pupils and staff report that it is not leading to improvements in pupils' behaviour. As a result, some pupils feel unsafe;
- Leaders have not provided all staff with the training they need to keep pupils safe. As a result, some staff do not have the knowledge they need to identify pupils who may be at risk of harm;
- Leaders' record keeping and reporting of safeguarding incidents is not detailed enough. Serious safeguarding issues are not reported to governors and

trustees consistently. As a result, leaders' view of safeguarding is inaccurate;

- In some curriculum areas, such as mathematics, assessments do not accurately check pupils' understanding of the full curriculum. As a result, teachers do not have an accurate picture of what pupils know and can do;
- Older pupils who are still learning to read do not get the support they need to catch up;
- In the early years, staff miss opportunities to develop children's vocabulary and understanding of mathematical concepts. The activities that leaders plan for children in the early years are not accurately matched to what children need to learn next. As a result, opportunities for children to count and compare weights and shapes are missed;
- Pupils do not understand what British values are and why they are so important in British society;
- Some subject leaders have not had time allocated by senior leaders to monitor the impact of their curriculum on pupils' learning. Consequently, the effectiveness of the curriculum is not clearly known.

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

Please provide me with any representations the Trust wishes to make by 29 November 2022.

I am copying this letter to Ofsted and Redcar and Cleveland Local Authority. A copy of this letter will also be published on GOV.UK.

Yours sincerely



Katherine Cowell
Regional Director, North East

Cc: Ofsted
Clare Mahoney, Assistant Director for Education, Redcar and Cleveland
Borough Council

Kathryn Boulton, Corporate Director, Children and Family Services, Redcar and Cleveland Borough Council