



Department
for Education

Regional Director's Office
Andrew Warren
West Midlands Regional Delivery
Directorate
Cheylesmore House
Quinton Road

The Members and Trustees of Central Regions Schools Trust,
Assay Studios,
141-143 Newhall Street
Birmingham,
B3 1SF

4 January 2023

Dear Mr Griffiths,

Termination Warning Notice to the Members and Trustees of the Central Regions Schools Trust in respect of Gospel Oak School.

In accordance with clauses 5F-5H of the funding agreement for Gospel Oak 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 24 November confirming that Gospel Oak School was judged to be inadequate and requires significant improvement. For the reasons set out below, I now consider it necessary to issue this Termination Warning Notice.

- The arrangements for safeguarding are not effective.
- When pupils are in school, too many report that they feel scared and unsafe. Some girls also report that they suffer from sexual harassment. Leaders have not done enough to ensure everyone understands the importance of respectful behaviour. Consequently, poor behaviour leaves some pupils feeling unsafe in school.
- Leaders and teachers do not manage pupils' behaviour well. There are too many instances of poor behaviour in lessons. The school's behaviour management approach does not work effectively. Pupils' conduct around the school site is frequently unacceptable. As a result, some pupils feel unsafe.

- Pupils lack confidence in the ability of teachers and leaders to respond to their concerns about foul and discriminatory language. Pupils feel they either have to ignore the issue or seek to resolve problems on their own.
- Pupils with SEND are not consistently given the support they need by teachers to help them learn the curriculum. This means they do not make sufficient progress.
- Too many pupils are absent from school. Leaders do not ensure that these pupils have appropriate work to do when they are not attending school. This means that they miss out on vital education and there is disruption to their learning.

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 wish to make in response to this Termination Warning Notice.

Please provide me with any representations the trust wish to make by 24 January 2023.

I am copying this letter to the Sandwell LA and Ofsted. A copy of this letter will also be published on GOV.UK.

Yours sincerely

Andrew Warren
Regional Director for West Midlands

CC: Ofsted, Sandwell Local Authority