



Department
for Education

Regions Group North East
Bishopsgate House
Feethams, Darlington
DL1 5QE

Mr David Earnshaw
Chair of Trustees
Outwood Grange Academies Trust
Potovens Lane
Outwood
Wakefield
WF1 2PF

25 October 2022

BY EMAIL – d.earnshaw@outwood.com

Dear Mr Earnshaw

Termination Warning Notice to the Members and Trustees of Outwood Grange Academies Trust (“the Trust”) in respect of Outwood Academy Ormesby

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 25 September 2022 confirming that the Academy was judged to be inadequate and has serious weaknesses.

For the reasons set out below, I am issuing this Termination Warning Notice. Of concern to me are Ofsted’s conclusions that:

- Too many pupils’ learning is being disrupted by poor behaviour. A high proportion of pupils are suspended from school. The behaviour of some pupils is preventing some teachers from implementing the curriculum effectively. Leaders must take action to promote pupils’ ability to regulate their own behaviour. They should also ensure that there is a consistent approach to managing behaviour to reduce the number of suspensions and exclusions.
- Derogatory language, including homophobic language, is commonplace among too many pupils. Some pupils feel that staff do not always deal with this. Leaders must ensure that an ethos of respect

and tolerance is instilled across the school through the further development and embedding of their new personal development and character education plans.

- The use of assessment is inconsistent across the school. Some teachers do not identify gaps in pupils' knowledge or pick up on misconceptions quickly enough. This means that some pupils move on to new topics without the having relevant knowledge in place. Leaders should ensure that effective assessment strategies are used consistently. They should check that teachers routinely identify where pupils have gaps in knowledge so that they can address these and ensure pupils have secure recall of the most important content.
- Partnerships between the school and home are not as effective as they should be. Some parents have negative views of the school. Leaders must further develop their work on engaging with parents, so they have a better understanding of the school's expectations and priorities. Leaders should take steps to build effective communication with parents, to build confidence in the school and encourage a partnership in the improvement journey.

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 reaching a decision 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 18 November 2022.

I am copying this letter to Ofsted and Middlesbrough Council. A copy of this letter will also be published on GOV.UK.

Yours sincerely



Katherine Cowell
Regional Director, North East

cc: Martyn Oliver, Chief Executive Officer, Outwood Grange Academies Trust
Rob Brown, Director of Education, Prevention and Partnerships,
Middlesbrough Council

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