



Department
for Education

Regional Director's Office
Yorkshire & The Humber
Level 7, St Paul's Place
125 Norfolk Street
Sheffield
S1 2FJ

Email: RG.YH@education.gov.uk

The Members and Trustees of Tapton School Academy Trust
Tapton School Academy Trust
Darwin Lane
Sheffield
South Yorkshire
S10 5RG

5th October 2022

Dear Mrs Sarah Draper,

Termination Warning Notice to the Members and Trustees of the Tapton School Academy Trust in respect of Chaucer School, Sheffield

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 5th September 2022 confirming that Chaucer 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.

Ofsted published its report on 26 September 2022. The report highlighted the following weaknesses:

1. Leaders, including those responsible for governance, have been unable to bring about the necessary improvements needed at the school.
2. The standard of behaviour is inadequate. The school's behaviour policy is not applied consistently or effectively by all staff. Staff and pupils do not feel pupils' behaviour is managed well.
3. The personal development curriculum is not providing pupils with a wide, rich set of experiences. As a result, some pupils' understanding of British values, other faiths and cultures is weak. This means that some pupils are not prepared for life in modern Britain.
4. The planning and implementation of the curriculum is variable. This, in part, means that pupils learn new knowledge in an unstructured way. Some pupils find it difficult to recall what they have been taught or learn new content as well as they might.

This Termination Warning Notice supersedes the pre-Termination Warning Notice issued to you on 13 February 2017, in relation to Chaucer School, and following this recent Ofsted inspection, I have concerns about the capacity of the trust to deliver rapid and sustainable improvement.

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, which should include a copy of the trust's post-Ofsted action plan.

Please provide me with any representations the trust wishes to make by 26th October 22.

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

Yours sincerely



Carolyn Goggin
Interim Regional Director for Yorkshire and The Humber

CC: Katrina Gueli – Regional Director, North East, Yorkshire & Humber (Ofsted)
Andrew Jones – Director of Children Services (Sheffield City Council)
