



Department
for Education

Regions Group
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Mr Jeffrey Knight
Chair of Trustees
Learning without Limits Academy Trust
The Lancaster Academy
Knighton Lane East
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LE2 6FU

14 February 2023

Dear Mr Knight

Termination Warning Notice to the Members and Trustees of Learning without Limits Academy Trust in respect of South Wigston High School

In accordance with clauses 5.F to 5.H of the funding agreement for South Wigston High 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 by the Academy or the Academy requires significant improvement.

We received an Ofsted notification dated 16 January 2023, confirming that South Wigston High School was judged to be inadequate and has serious weaknesses. As a result of this judgement and for the reasons set out below, we now consider it necessary to issue this Termination Warning Notice in respect of South Wigston High School.

In its inspection report published on 27 January 2023, Ofsted highlighted several concerns, including that:

- Teachers do not always have high enough expectations for pupils. Pupils do not always learn key knowledge.
- Teachers do not always question pupils effectively. They do not routinely check pupils' understanding or identify their misconceptions. Pupils are not able to build on secure prior knowledge as well as they should.
- Teachers do not effectively meet the needs of pupils with SEND. Pupils with SEND do not benefit from a good enough quality of education.
- Some pupils' behaviour is not good enough in lessons and around the school. They disrupt learning and can make other pupils feel unsafe. Some pupils use derogatory language, including racist and homophobic insults.

- Pupils say that when bullying happens, it isn't dealt with very well. They say that they don't always feel confident that when they report it to staff it will stop.
- Too many pupils do not attend school frequently enough or are late for school. Many of these are disadvantaged pupils or pupils with SEND. These pupils miss lessons and do not achieve as well as they should.
- Some pupils do not benefit from the personal development curriculum. They are not always able to remember what they have been taught.
- Many pupils, parents and staff say they are concerned about the rapid changes that have been made to the school. They say that information is not always communicated to them well enough. Sometimes they don't understand the changes that are being made.

We acknowledge the way in which leaders of the trust have engaged with our team since the form 2 notification, including sharing with us the draft Post Ofsted Action Plan being developed for the school. However, having received the final Ofsted report, we are concerned about the ability of the trust to deliver at pace the significant improvements which are required at South Wigston High School.

As Regional Directors, we need to be satisfied that the trust has capacity to deliver rapid and sustainable improvement at the academy. If we are not satisfied that this can be achieved, we 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 we will consider any written representations the trust wishes to make in response to this Termination Warning Notice. Please provide us with any representations the trust wishes to make by 15 March 2023. Your representations should set out the actions you have taken so far and that you plan to take at school level to address the significant issues highlighted in the Ofsted report, as well as at trust level to ensure there is strong oversight of the school improvement and performance in all the trust's academies.

We are copying this letter to Ofsted and Leicestershire County Council. A copy of this letter will also be published on GOV.UK.

Yours sincerely

Kate Copley

Regional Director for East Midlands

CC: Mike Sheridan – Regional Director, East Midlands (Ofsted)

Jane Moore – Director, Children and Family Services (Leicestershire County Council)