



Department
for Education

Regions Group
Yorkshire and Humber
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Feethams
Darlington
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Email: RG.YH@education.gov.uk

The Members and Trustees of Beckfoot Trust
Beckfoot Trust
Wagon Lane
Bingley
BD16 1EE

Via email to: [REDACTED]

10 February 2023

Dear [REDACTED]

Termination Warning Notice to the Members and Trustees of Beckfoot Trust in respect of Beckfoot Oakbank

In accordance with clauses 5.F to 5H of the funding agreement for Beckfoot Oakbank (“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 9 January 2023 confirming that Beckfoot Oakbank 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.

- Aspects of the school’s curriculum model for pupils in Years 7 to 11 are not well thought through. The model does not consistently meet the needs of the more vulnerable pupils, nor does it stretch and challenge pupils who have the potential to learn more. Leaders must revisit their curriculum offer and raise its ambition.
- Many pupils in Years 7 to 11 cannot communicate, read, write and apply mathematics sufficiently well for their age. Pupils requiring specific support to read fluently are not getting appropriate help. The plans in place to address ongoing poor performance in GCSE English and mathematics do not go far enough. Leaders must provide these departments with additional support to address these matters of concern.
- Aspects of the curriculum at Beckfoot Oakbank lack ambition. Over time, pupils do not make sufficient progress in English or mathematics. Pupils who need help to read fluently do not receive effective support. Very few pupils study the combination of GCSE subjects which are collectively known as the

English Baccalaureate (Ebacc). This includes English, mathematics, science, a language and either history or geography.

- The most vulnerable pupils in Years 7 to 11 do not benefit from a high-quality education consistently. Disadvantaged pupils make poor progress. Pupils with SEND do not routinely benefit from high-quality classroom experiences. While leaders have begun to address these concerns, this work must continue with a sense of urgency.
- A significant minority of pupils in Years 7 to 11 show a lack of respect towards each other. Some pupils do not routinely display good manners. This results in poor behaviour around the school and particularly in the separate on-site building. Leaders must continue to address unacceptable standards of behaviour.
- Too many pupils in Years 7 to 11 do not attend school regularly. This includes those attending alternative provision. While new momentum has been brought to this school improvement priority, the actions taken over time to address this have not gone far enough. Leaders must ensure that pupils attend school more regularly.
- The school's provision for the cultural development of pupils in Years 7 to 11 does not currently go far enough. This weakness limits pupils' understanding and appreciation of the cultural influences that have shaped the world around them. Leaders must extend their personal development offer by providing pupils with opportunities to broaden their cultural capital.
- Whistleblowing procedures are unclear at the school. Some staff are unclear about who to report issues to. Leaders must ensure the policy in place for reporting concerns is clear and that staff know and follow this policy.
- Trustees' awareness and oversight of the school is weak. They are not providing leaders with enough support and challenge. The improvements they have enacted have been implemented too slowly. The trust must reconsider the local governance arrangements in place for this school. They must ensure the school's new leaders are provided with clear direction and support.

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.

I would be grateful for the following evidence, which I will take into account when assessing whether the Academy is making sufficient improvements:

- A copy of the post-Ofsted Action Plan;
- Information on what action is being taken to support educational improvement at the Academy and the timescales of this work;
- Details of current governance and leadership arrangements, including clear lines of support, delegation and accountability;
- Any other information you feel would be helpful.

Please provide me with any representations the trust wishes to make by 10 March 2023.

I am copying this letter to Marium Haque, DCS of Bradford Metropolitan District Council, Shirley Watson, the Trust's CEO, and Ofsted. A copy of this letter will also be published on GOV.UK.

Yours sincerely

[Redacted signature]

Alison Wilson
Regional Director, Yorkshire and The Humber

CC:

Marium Haque, DCS of Bradford Metropolitan District Council, via:

[Redacted contact information]

Shirley Watson, CEO of Beckfoot Trust, via

[Redacted contact information]

Ofsted, via:

[Redacted contact information]