



Department
for Education

Regional Director for the West Midlands
Regions Group
Department for Education
Cheylesmore House
Quinton Road
Coventry
CV1 2WT

The Members and Trustees of Transforming Lives Education Trust
Houlton School
Signal Drive
Houlton
Rugby
CV23 1ED

Thursday 2 March 2023

Dear 

Termination Warning Notice to the Members and Trustees of Transforming Lives Education Trust in respect of Ashlawn School.

In accordance with clauses 5.F to 5.H of the funding agreement for Ashlawn School 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 11 January 2023 confirming that Ashlawn School 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.

The Ofsted report, published 25 January 2023, highlights the following key areas of concern:

- Leaders' vision for providing a high-quality, inclusive education for all pupils is not fully understood across the school community. This lack of clarity and shared set of common values has resulted in uncertainty and instability that permeate through many aspects of school life. Leaders should ensure that all stakeholders understand and share their vision for the school and its pupils, and all contribute cohesively to achieve this.
- Leaders have not created a culture in which all pupils can thrive. Many pupils do not recognise the value of courtesy and good behaviour as important factors in school life and in wider society. A minority of pupils struggle to manage their behaviour and are not being supported well to improve. Pupils' casual use of discriminatory language is commonplace. Leaders should

ensure that all work together consistently and are committed to fostering a culture where all pupils show respect to others and are proud of their school.

- Leaders have not ensured that all teachers make effective and regular checks on pupils' prior knowledge and learning in lessons. This means that teachers do not always provide responsive and timely support to build pupils' understanding. Leaders should continue to work with staff so that all make prompt and effective checks on pupils' learning to help inform and adapt their teaching.
- Leaders have not ensured that all teachers use the information about how to best support pupils with SEND consistently well. As a result, some pupils with SEND do not get the support in lessons that is in line with the agreed strategies to help them learn. Leaders should ensure that all staff see themselves as teachers of pupils with SEND and use information about pupils consistently well so that they make good progress in all their subjects.
- Leaders do not routinely share information about pupils' reading accuracy and fluency with teachers. This means that teachers do not know which pupils in their lessons find reading difficult and would therefore benefit from more support in confidently accessing their learning. Leaders should devise and implement a clear strategy so that weaker readers are supported effectively in developing the reading skills needed to learn the curriculum.

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 wishes to make by Thursday 23 March 2023. This information should include but is not limited to:

- A post-Ofsted action plan detailing what is being done to make the necessary improvements outlined by Ofsted, including timescales of this work.
- Measures that are being taken to improve behaviour and attitudes at the academy.
- Information on what action is being taken to support pupils with reading fluency across the curriculum.
- Strategies being implemented to support pupils with SEND.

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

Yours sincerely



Andrew Warren
Regional Director, West Midlands.

CC: Ofsted, Warwickshire County Council.