



Department
for Education

Regional Director's Office

Vicky Beer CBE
Regional Director, North West Regions
Group
Department for Education
Piccadilly Gate
Store Street
Manchester
M1 2WD

The Members and Directors of Emmaus Catholic Academy Trust
Jackson House
Sibson Road
Sale
M33 7RR

06 February 2023

Dear Catherine Anderson

Termination Warning Notice to the Members and Directors of the Emmaus Catholic Academy Trust in respect of St Matthew's RC High School

In accordance with clauses 5.F to 5.H of the funding agreement for St Matthew's RC 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 in relation to the Academy or the Academy requires significant improvement.

I received an Ofsted notification dated 12 January 2023 confirming that St Matthew's RC High 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.

In its inspection report, Ofsted highlighted several concerns, including that:

- Leaders, governors and trustees have not demonstrated the capacity to improve the quality of education for pupils.
- Leaders, governors and trustees do not safeguard pupils and staff. Many pupils do not report safeguarding and welfare issues to leaders because they said that they will not act. As a result, pupils and staff are put at risk of considerable harm.
- Some pupils' rates of attendance are poor, particularly disadvantaged pupils. Two thirds of disadvantaged pupils are regularly absent from school. Leaders

have been unsuccessful in addressing this serious issue. Added to this, a large number of pupils are considerably late to school.

- Leaders have not tackled the aggressive and dangerous behaviour that is exhibited by pupils towards their peers and towards some staff. Some pupils have homophobic, racist and/or misogynistic attitudes towards others. These pupils express their discriminatory views openly. This means that many pupils do not feel safe in school. Leaders must ensure that they tackle all aspects of pupils' poor behaviour. They must support staff and ensure that behaviour policies are applied consistently. The curriculum is ineffective, including for pupils with SEND. Pupils experience a disconnected series of lessons which lack structure. Pupils with SEND do not receive appropriate support. Consequently, pupils underachieve considerably. In several subject areas, leaders have not designed the curriculum to cover sufficient subject content. This considerably limits how well pupils learn.
- Many pupils cannot read well enough to access the curriculum. Leaders have not created an effective programme of support to improve pupils' reading skills. A considerable number of pupils have missing phonics knowledge. However, leaders have not put suitable provision in place for those pupils who need the most 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 consider when assessing whether the trust is making sufficient improvements:

- **Leadership and governance:** Clear evidence that there is strong and stable leadership and effective governance in place at all levels to drive rapid and sustained school improvement and ensure children are safe.
- **Safeguarding:** Evidence that there are effective safeguarding arrangements in place to provide confidence to parents and pupils that safeguarding concerns can be reported and will be addressed, and that staff are not at risk of harm.
- **Attendance and behaviour:** Clear evidence is required that demonstrates that attendance has improved and is on a sustained trajectory. There needs to be clear evidence that effective behaviour policies have been implemented effectively that demonstrate improved behaviour across the school, leading to evidence of a reduction in instances of antisocial or dangerous behaviour.
- **Education and Curriculum Planning:** Clear evidence that a plan is in place and fully implemented to ensure that action is taken to fully address the concerns about curriculum, including addressing the gaps in phonics and reading skills, and broadening the curriculum so that subjects contain a sufficient amount of relevant content. This includes ensuring that pupils with SEND are fully supported so that they can access the curriculum and achieve well.

Please provide me with the information above and any representations the trust wishes to make by 6 March 2023.

I am copying this letter to Ofsted, Manchester City Council and the Diocese of Salford. A copy of this letter will also be published on GOV.UK.

Yours sincerely

Vicky Beer CBE
Regional Director, North West Regions Group

CC:
Ofsted
Amanda Corcoran, Manchester City Council
Simon Smith, Diocese of Salford