



Department
for Education

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The Members and Directors of the Blessed Peter Snow Catholic Academy Trust
Oxford Road
Dewsbury
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Via email to: a-dorsey@bpstrust.org.uk

17 March 2023

Dear Ms Antonia Dorsey

Termination Warning Notice to the Members and Directors of the Blessed Peter Snow Catholic Academy Trust in respect of St John Fisher Catholic Voluntary Academy

In accordance with sections 2A and 2D of the Academies Act 2010 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

My office received an Ofsted notification on 31 January 2023 confirming that the academy has serious weaknesses and requires significant improvement. For the reasons set out below, I now consider it necessary to issue this Termination Warning Notice.

- Safeguarding arrangements in St John Fisher are not effective. Poor behaviour of pupils outside of lessons makes other pupils and some staff feel unsafe. There is a culture of disrespect where derogatory, rude and offensive language is common and pupils witness physical and verbal aggression towards other pupils regularly. Academy and trust leaders have not done enough to address unruly and intimidating behaviour.
- Pupils are frequently missing from school, including for part of the school day, but this is not tackled appropriately by staff. This means leaders and staff do not know whether pupils are safe.
- The school's behaviour records show high numbers of incidents of poor behaviour. The removal of pupils from lessons, the use of the 'on-call room' and pupil suspensions are increasing.

- Pupils do not understand all aspects of the personal development curriculum. This is because particular topics are not taught to some year groups. Some pupils lack full understanding of issues they may face in the local community.
- Trust and senior leaders have not acted with pace to address long term failings. The lack of leadership capacity has meant behaviour has deteriorated and pupils education has suffered.

As Regional Director, I need to be satisfied that the trust has capacity to deliver rapid and sustainable improvement at the Academy. This is the third time the Academy has received an Inadequate judgement whilst in the trust, so any case put forward will need to be compelling. If I am not satisfied that the necessary improvements 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;
- An action plan to address the safeguarding concerns listed above, that provides evidence that the trust is adhering to regulations and statutory guidance; [Keeping children safe in education](#) and [Working together to safeguard children](#), and that these are effectively implemented at St John Fisher;
- Any other information you feel would be helpful.

Please provide me with any representations the trust wishes to make by 6 April 2023.

I am copying this letter to Ofsted, Kirklees LA, Diocese of Leeds Director of Education, Kieron Flood and the Trust's CEO, Richard Williams. A copy of this letter will also be published on GOV.UK.

Yours sincerely



Alison Wilson
Regional Director, Yorkshire and The Humber

CC:

Ofsted

Kirklees LA

Kieron Flood (Director of Education, Diocese of Leeds)

Richard Williams (CEO of The Blessed Peter Snow Catholic Academy Trust)