



Department
for Education

Regional Director for the West Midlands
Regions Group
Department for Education
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Email: RG.WM@education.gov.uk

Community Academies Trust
Dimpleby House
Stoneydelph Primary School
Crowden Road
Wilnecote
Tamworth
B77 4LS

Sent by email to:

[REDACTED]

Copied in:

[REDACTED]

The Members and Trustees of Community Academies Trust

12 May 2023

Dear [REDACTED],

Termination Warning Notice to the Members and Trustees of Community Academies Trust in respect of The Telford Priory School

In accordance with sections 2B and 2D of the Academies Act 2010¹, any funding agreement of an academy may be terminated by the Secretary of State where the academy is coasting as set out in the Coasting Schools (England) Regulations 2022, and the Secretary of State has notified the Academy Trust that the academy is coasting.

I notified the trust on 07 October 2022 that The Telford Priory School (“the Academy”) meets the legal definition of a school that is coasting (not making necessary improvements) as defined in the Coasting Schools (England) Regulations 2022. On 11 October 2022, I invited the trust’s representations in response to the notification letter which the trust provided on 02 November 2022. The trust provided additional representations on 25 November 2022.

¹ Inserted by section 14 of the Education and Adoption Act 2016

I wrote on 01 March 2023 to inform the trust that, after considering all of the information and evidence, I was not satisfied that the academy trust has the capacity and capability to deliver rapid and sustained improvements at the Academy and that I therefore intended to issue a Termination Warning Notice.

I need to be satisfied that the trust is taking action to raise standards at the Academy. In considering whether to take intervention action, I have taken into account all the available evidence, including the representations received from the trust. I have also applied the principles set out in the published document, [Regional Directors decision making: 2022](#) and considered the Academy's circumstances in line with the criteria set out in chapter 4 of the [Schools Causing Concern guidance](#).

The Academy has not been judged as Good by Ofsted since joining the academy trust in September 2015. I remain concerned that the trust has not been able to demonstrate stable, consistent improvement at the Academy over a prolonged period of time.

The most recent OFSTED inspection, dated 29 March 2022, stated:

- Some teachers do not use materials, such as work booklets, consistently well to implement the curriculum. Additionally, some teachers do not provide sufficient time for pupils to explore and develop ideas in lessons. Leaders should ensure that teaching resources, alongside discussion, are used effectively in lessons.
- Incidents of bullying and the use of derogatory language are not tackled consistently well by staff. Furthermore, suspensions and permanent exclusions remain high. Leaders should take steps to ensure that staff apply the school's behaviour policy consistently and all pupils feel confident reporting incidents.
- Too many pupils are absent or persistently absent from school. Leaders should scrutinise and evaluate attendance data more closely in order that pupil absence reduces.
- The 'global citizenship' curriculum is not delivered well. Leaders should ensure that they strengthen the school's personal development curriculum to ensure it is of a high quality for all pupils.
- A significant proportion of parents have a negative view of the school. Leaders should continue to strengthen their engagement with parents to help foster a more positive relationship between the school and the local community.

For this reason, I require the trust to take the specified actions below.

The following actions ("the Specified Actions") must be taken by the stated timescales

or the Secretary of State may issue a notice terminating the Academy's funding agreement pursuant to sections 2B and 2D of the Academies Act 2010:

Within four weeks of 12 May 2023

- Please provide further details of the trust's Education Advisory Board (EAB) – specifying a scheme of delegation for the school, as well as more clarity on experience. Please detail any previous school improvement work the EAB have undertaken within the trust, which may be relevant to The Telford Priory School.
- Provide details of collaborative work between The Telford Priory School and other secondary schools in the trust.
- Ensure all policies relating to the academy are in date and compliant.
- Please provide further information on the new Director of Secondary Education. Details to include:
 - Areas of expertise and previous experience
 - Plans and priorities for the immediate future.

By Friday 21 July 2023:

- Please provide an updated version of the academy's school improvement plan, with clear milestones identified.

Ongoing actions:

- Updated School Improvement plans – Provided at the end of each term for the 2023/24 academic year, showing progress against the plan and stated milestones.

I will monitor progress made towards meeting the Specified Actions. If the trust fails to meet any of the above Specified Actions by the specified date, I will consider whether to terminate the funding agreement in order to transfer the Academy to an alternative trust.

I reserve the right to amend this Termination Warning Notice to specify further action which the trust must take, and the date by which it must be completed.

The trust must respond to this Termination Warning Notice by Friday 9 June 2023 making any representations the trust wishes to make in response to this Termination Warning Notice and the above Specified Actions, or providing confirmation that the trust intends to comply with the above Specified Actions by the specified dates.

If the trust fails to respond to this Termination Warning Notice by Friday 9 June 2023 I may issue a notice terminating the Academy's funding agreement.

I am copying this letter to Ofsted and to Telford and Wrekin LA. A copy of this letter will also be published on GOV.UK.

Yours sincerely

[REDACTED]

Andrew Warren
Regional Director for the West Midlands

CC: [REDACTED]