



Department
for Education

Regional Director for North West
Piccadilly Gate
Manchester
M1 2WD

The Chair of Trustees of Bright Futures Education Trust
The Hub
144 Irlam Road
Urmston
Manchester
M41 6NA

22 March 2023

Dear [REDACTED],

Termination Warning Notice to the Members and Trustees of Bright Futures Education Trust in respect of South Shore Academy

In accordance with sections 2B and 2D of the Academies Act 2010, 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 Academy Trust on 6 October 2022 that South Shore Academy (“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 10 October 2022 I invited the Academy Trust’s representations in response to the notification letter, which the Academy Trust provided on 4 November 2022.

I wrote on 31 January 2023 to inform the Academy Trust that, after considering all the information and evidence, I was not satisfied that the Academy Trust has the capacity or capability to deliver rapid and sustained improvements at the Academy and that I therefore intended to issue a Termination Warning Notice.

Your trust relationship manager, Jennie Winkley met with you and John Stephens on 1 February 2023 to discuss the Termination Warning Notice process and next steps.

I need to be satisfied that the Academy 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 been part of Bright Futures Education Trust since December 2013. At its first inspection in May 2015 the Academy was judged inadequate, before moving to requires improvement in March 2017, and was judged requires improvement for a second consecutive

time in September 2019. The most recent Ofsted Monitoring visit in April 2022 noted that actions are being taken to ensure the school becomes good, but identified further actions which should be taken to strengthen curriculum and SEND provision. During the course of the 9 years the Academy has been the responsibility of the trust, it has never been judged good.

The last Ofsted inspection in September 2019 judged the Academy to be requires improvement. The Ofsted report published following inspection highlighted:

- Staff absence and weaknesses in teaching the curriculum have contributed to the weak examination outcomes, especially for disadvantaged pupils. .
- In some subjects, where the curriculum is still quite new, teachers are not as successful in ordering learning carefully to help pupils to remember more.
- Some teachers who are less confident in providing the support that pupils with SEND need to achieve well.
- Pupils' attendance is improving but it is still not good enough. Too many pupils are still absent from school for too much time.

For these reasons I require the Academy 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:

- Provide an improvement plan that addresses the outstanding areas of concern, in particular:
 - (i) ensuring the curriculum is delivered to a good standard, is broad and ambitious and builds on prior learning for all pupils, including for disadvantaged pupils and those pupils with SEND. This must include planning, delivery, and support for staff to enhance subject knowledge and use of assessment information, to ensure that all pupils are fully supported to achieve well;
 - (ii) ensuring there are clear and robust processes in place to reduce staff absence and address weak teaching, and ensuring further support is provided to those staff who are less confident in meeting the needs of disadvantaged pupils and pupils with SEND; and
 - (iii) ensuring there are clear and robust processes in place to reduce pupils' absence, leading to clear evidence of improved and sustained attendance.

The plan must be provided on or before **19 May 2023** and should include clear success measures and milestones for improvement will be used to monitor success. The plan, milestones and success measures will be subject to agreement by the Department.

- Implement the plan and provide me with termly updates on the agreed actions and milestones. We are mindful of workloads at the trust and as such we would not ask you to create specific documents for the purpose of the termly updates, but to share relevant board reports and other documents produced as part of your usual trust processes.

I will monitor progress made towards the Specified Actions, through board reports, school improvement progress reports and termly meetings arranged with my office in addition to any Ofsted monitoring reports. If the Academy Trust fails to meet any of the above Specified Actions, 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 Academy Trust must take, and the date by which it must be completed.

The Academy Trust must respond to this Termination Warning Notice by **11 April 2023**, making any representations the Academy Trust wishes to make in response to this Termination Warning Notice and the above Specified Actions, or providing confirmation that the Academy Trust intends to comply with the above Specified Actions by the specified dates.

If the Academy Trust fails to respond to this Termination Warning Notice by **11 April 2023**, I may issue a notice terminating the Academy's funding agreement.

I am copying this letter to Ofsted, and to [REDACTED] at Blackpool Council. A copy of this letter will also be published on GOV.UK.

Yours sincerely

Vicky Beer
Regional Director, North West Regions Group

Cc: [REDACTED], Ofsted
Cc: [REDACTED], Blackpool Council