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for Education

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The Members and Trustees of Nurture Academies Trust  
Fearnville Drive  
Bradford  
BD4 8DX

Via email to:

16 June 2023

Dear

**Termination Warning Notice to the Members and Trustees of the Nurture Academies Trust in respect of Victoria Primary School**

My predecessor notified the trust on 5 October 2022 that Victoria Primary School (“the Academy”) is not making necessary improvements.<sup>1</sup> On 7 October 2022 the trust was invited to make representations in response to the notification letter, which the trust provided. I have 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](#).

I refer to my letter of 6 March 2023. As stated in that letter, as Regional Director I must be confident, based on the information available and evidence provided, that the trust can deliver rapid and sustained improvements at the Academy. Currently, I am not satisfied this is the case. I acknowledged, however, that the trust is currently engaging with the department on options to transfer the Academy to a strong trust, appreciating the benefits that the transfer will bring. I also stated that, although you have agreed to work with the department on a transfer, I intend to issue a Termination Warning Notice to reflect the fact that the Academy remains subject to this intervention power, and the trust remains accountable for the outcomes of the Academy and its pupils until the transfer takes place.

In accordance with clauses 5B, 5C, 5D and 5E of the funding agreement for

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<sup>1</sup> The term “not making necessary improvements” is used in the Schools Causing Concern guidance (October 2022 update). A reference in that guidance, and in this letter, to schools “not making necessary improvements” should be read as meaning that such schools meet the statutory definition of ‘coasting’, contained in the Coasting Schools (England) Regulations 2022

Victoria Primary School, the Secretary of State may terminate the funding agreement where paragraphs (2), (3), (4) or (5) of regulation 4 of the Coasting Schools (England) Regulations 2022 applies to the academy and the Secretary of State has notified the Academy Trust.

I recognise the positive way in which the trust has engaged with my team and that it is in the process of agreeing a resolution to transfer the Academy to another trust. At a meeting with my team in December 2022, you indicated the trust would be willing to explore moving all of the trust's schools to another trust.

I need to be satisfied that the trust is taking action to raise standards at the Academy. Whilst some improvements have been made, the overall trajectory of improvement since the Academy joined the trust in July 2017 has been slow. The 2019 Ofsted report stated that "pupils attainment in key points of their learning journey is not as strong as it should be". An SRMA deployment which took place from July 2022 to December 2022 and a governance review between September 2022 and January 2023 raised concerns about the trust as a whole from a financial and governance perspective. I am therefore concerned about the trust's leadership capacity and capability to bring about the necessary improvements at Victoria Primary School.

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 clause 5.E of the Supplemental Funding Agreement for Victoria Primary School:

- Continue to progress bespoke school improvement support, funded by the Department's Trust and School Improvement (TSI) offer and delivered by a school improvement partner identified by the Department.
- Work with the school improvement partner to produce a plan which identifies additional measures that could be put in place with a specific focus on driving rapid improvement in pupil outcomes. Plan to be provided to my team by 17 July 2023.
- Until the point at which Victoria transfers out of the trust, provide termly updates to my team on progress against the improvement plan, with the first update to be provided by 17 July 2023.

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 dates, I will consider whether to terminate the Academy's 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 7 July 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 7 July 2023, I may issue a notice terminating the Academy's funding agreement.

Once again, I appreciate the trust's willingness to work with the department to secure the best outcomes for children at the Academy.

I am copying this letter to Ofsted, and to Bradford Local Authority, and the trust CEO Wahid Zaman. A copy of this letter will also be published on GOV.UK.

Yours sincerely

**Alison Wilson**  
**Regional Director for Yorkshire & Humber**

CC: Katrina Gueli, Ofsted Regional Director

Marium Haque, Strategic Director of Children's Services, City of Bradford Metropolitan District Council

Wahid Zaman, CEO of Nurture Academies Trust