



Department  
for Education

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The Members and Trustees of Astrea Academy Trust  
The Quadrant  
99 Parkway Avenue  
Sheffield  
S9 4WG

28th June 2023

Dear [REDACTED]

**Termination Warning Notice to the Members and Trustees of the Astrea Academy Trust in respect of Astrea Academy Woodfields**

In accordance with clauses 5.F to 5H of the funding agreement for Astrea Academy Woodfields ("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 17 March 2023 confirming that Astrea Academy Woodfields was judged to be inadequate and has serious weaknesses. For the reasons set out below, I now consider it necessary to issue this Termination Warning Notice. Of serious concern to me are Ofsted's conclusions that:

- The number of pupils being removed from lessons or receiving suspensions as a result of poor behaviour is too high. Too much learning time is lost and these pupils fall behind their peers. Leaders should ensure that they understand the causes of pupils' poor behaviour and put steps in place to reduce the risk of it reoccurring.
- Too many pupils do not attend school often enough. These pupils have gaps in their knowledge. These gaps slow pupils' learning. Leaders should continue to embed the new attendance strategy and work with the community to remove barriers to regular attendance.

- In some lessons, teachers do not use assessment effectively to check on what pupils know and to adjust their teaching to fill gaps in pupils' understanding. In these lessons, work is not well matched to pupils' needs and pupils do not catch up as quickly as they could. Leaders should review the impact of the new routines established and provide additional training to staff where required.
- Some pupils' understanding of aspects of the PSHE programme, such as awareness of the protected characteristics, is limited. For some pupils, this limited understanding is reflected in negative interactions with their peers. Leaders should further enhance pupils' awareness of equalities to support the respectful culture they are seeking to establish.

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, which I will consider when assessing whether the trust is making sufficient improvements.

- **Attendance:** The academy's attendance strategy along with evidence of how leaders are embedding this including data to support how the strategy is improving attendance and projections for future academic years. The evidence should also demonstrate how you are working with the community to remove barriers to regular attendance and provide specifics on interventions you have implemented or are planning to implement including for SEND and disadvantaged students and how the impact of these is being/ will be monitored and evaluated.
- **Behaviour:** Clear evidence of a plan demonstrating how you will reduce the instances of pupils being removed from lessons or receiving suspensions. The plan should clearly identify how the trust intends to gain understanding of the causes of pupils' poor behaviour and based on this understanding the measures that will be implemented to reduce re-occurrence of issues with clearly defined targets and timescales for improvement.
- **Teaching and assessment:** Evidence that leaders have reviewed teaching and assessment and a plan is in place and implemented to ensure that action is taken to fully address the concerns regarding improving assessment and adapting work to meet pupils needs to ensure that all pupils are fully supported to achieve well. Please include detail, along with a timeline, on how you will support staff to use assessment effectively and improve their teaching practices to fill gaps in pupils' understanding and match work accordingly, and how leaders will ensure repeated consistency and quality in future.
- **Personal development.** A clear plan of how leaders will provide greater support to students to build their understanding of all aspects of the PSHE programme and how students will be supported to gain an improved awareness of equalities. Please provide details of the ongoing work to establish a respectful culture within the academy.

Please provide me with the above information or any additional representations the trust wish to make by 20<sup>th</sup> July 2023.

I am copying this letter to Ofsted and Doncaster Council. A copy of this letter will also be published on GOV.UK.

Yours sincerely



**Alison Wilson**  
**Regional Director for Yorkshire and The Humber**

CC:

Katrina Gueli – Regional Director, North East, Yorkshire & Humber (Ofsted)  
Riana Nelson – Director of Children Services (Doncaster Council)