



Department
for Education

Regional Director's Office
North West Regions Group
3rd Floor, Piccadilly Gate
Store Street
Manchester
M1 2WD

The Members and Directors of Mater Christi Multi-Academy Trust
The Education Centre
Balmoral Road
Lancaster
LA1 3BT

22 September 2023

Dear [REDACTED],

Termination Warning Notice to the Members and Directors of Mater Christi Multi-Academy Trust in respect of St Cuthbert's Catholic Primary School, Windermere

In accordance with clauses 5.F to 5.H of the funding agreement for St Cuthbert's Catholic Primary School, Windermere ("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 07 June 2023 confirming that St Cuthbert's Catholic Primary School, Windermere was judged to be inadequate and requires special measures. For the reasons set out below, I now consider it necessary to issue this Termination Warning Notice.

- The curriculum in many subjects, including in the early years, is not ambitious or well organised. As a result, pupils, including those with SEND, do not build up their knowledge across the curriculum to prepare them well for their next stages of education. Leaders must design and implement a curriculum that enables children in the early years, and pupils across the rest of the school, to achieve well.
- Leaders do not ensure that all children in the early years, and pupils in key stage 1, receive the support that they need to develop secure reading knowledge. These pupils struggle to read fluently as they progress through the school. Leaders must ensure that all pupils benefit from effective delivery of the school's reading programme so that they read with confidence and fluency.

- Leaders do not ensure that teachers find out and address the gaps that pupils have in their knowledge. This results in pupils developing misconceptions or failing to learn essential facts. Leaders must make sure that teachers identify the gaps in pupils' learning and then reshape their teaching to help pupils gain missed or forgotten knowledge.
- The capacity to bring about sustained improvement rests too heavily on the headteacher. This limits leaders from tackling the shortcomings in the quality of education that children in the early years, and pupils across the rest of the school, receive. Leaders and those responsible for governance must extend the leadership capacity within the school to bring about the necessary changes.

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.

Please provide me with any representations the trust wish to make by 13 October 2023.

I am copying this letter to Ofsted, Westmorland and Furness Council, and the Diocese of Lancaster. A copy of this letter will also be published on GOV.UK.

Yours sincerely

Vicky Beer
Regional Director for the North West

CC: [REDACTED], National Director of Education - Ofsted, [REDACTED], Director Strategy and Engagement – Ofsted, [REDACTED], Director of Children's Services - Westmorland and Furness Council, [REDACTED] Diocesan Schools Commissioner - Diocese of Lancaster