



Department  
for Education

Regional Director for the West Midlands  
Regions Group  
Department for Education  
Cheylesmore House  
Quinton Road  
Coventry  
CV1 2WT

Email: [REDACTED]

The Members and Directors of St Chad's Academy Trust  
Birchills CE Community Academy  
Farrington Street  
Walsall  
WS2 8NF

6 June 2023

Dear [REDACTED],

**Termination Warning Notice to the Members and Directors of the St Chad's Academy Trust in respect of All Saints National Academy**

In accordance with sections 2B and 2D of the Academies Act 2010<sup>1</sup>, 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 4 October 2022 that the All Saints National 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 16 November 2022 I invited the trust's representations in response to the notification letter which the trust provided.

I wrote on 1 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 or capability to deliver rapid and sustained improvements at the Academy and that I therefore intended to issue a Termination Warning Notice.

I understand that regular conversations are taking place between the delivery officer, and the trust to provide updates and to discuss offers of support.

I need to be satisfied that the trust is taking action to raise standards at the

---

<sup>1</sup> Inserted by section 14 of the Education and Adoption Act 2016

Academy.

I recognise the work that has been done to improve the Academy since it was graded inadequate in May 2018, and which was acknowledged by Ofsted on inspection in January 2022, when the Academy was graded as requires improvement. However, the January 2022 report identified further work needed.

Since the inspection in January 2022, the trust has received inadequate Ofsted inspections in two other academies which impacts the trust's capacity to make improvements at pace at the Academy.

Ofsted (January 12 & 13 2022) identified:

- Leaders should ensure that they review curriculum implementation regularly to check that it is delivered as intended.
- The school's agreed approach to assessment should be implemented to determine how well pupils are achieving, pinpoint gaps in pupils' knowledge and amend the curriculum where needed.
- Teachers' expectations of what pupils can achieve in reading, writing and mathematics are too low. As a result, not all pupils achieve as well as they should and standards remain low, including in the early years.
- Leaders do not analyse patterns of behaviour and attendance using the information they collect. Leaders should use this information to better detect any patterns or trends and evaluate whether the actions they have taken are effective.

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 of Sections 2B and 2D of the Academies Act 2010:

- Provide an updated Post Ofsted Action Plan by 30 June 2023. The plan and milestones will be subject to agreement by the Regional Director. The plan should include evidence of the impact of actions taken to date and any external verification of this impact. In relation to the above Ofsted action points, I would like this to include:
  - How are the implementation of the curriculum and of the Academy's approach to assessment being monitored and what is the impact to date?
  - What is the impact of work to raise teachers' expectations? How are leaders checking this and has there been any external review?
  - What is the role of leaders and governors in the analysis of patterns of behaviour and attendance? Evidence of patterns or trends that have been identified. The actions taken to address any issues

identified and whether they are effective in dealing with the issues.

- Implement the agreed Post Ofsted Action Plan and provide half termly updates to the plan and on the actions and milestones within the plan and where there are delays or risks how these are being addressed.
- Undertake an internal appraisal of the capacity and school improvement strategies in place to effectively improve the Academy. Provide a report on this appraisal and action plan by 30 June 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 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 30 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 30 June 2023, I may issue a notice terminating the Academy's funding agreement.

I am copying this letter to Ofsted, Walsall Local Authority and the Diocese of Lichfield. A copy of this letter will also be published on GOV.UK.

Yours sincerely,

A black rectangular redaction box covering the signature of Andrew Warren.

Andrew Warren  
**Regional Director for the West Midlands**