

██████████, Head Teacher
██████████, Chair of Trustees,
Pewsey Vale School (SAT)
Wilcot Road
Pewsey
Wiltshire
SN9 5EW

22/09/23

Dear ██████████,

Termination Warning Notice to the Members and Trustees of Pewsey Vale School

I notified the trust on 19 April 2023 that Pewsey Vale School (“the Academy”) is not making necessary improvements.¹ On 3 May 2023 I invited the trust’s representations in response to the notification letter, which you provided on 17 May 2023. 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](#) as well as the representations from the trust.

As stated in my letter of 17 July 2023, as Regional Director I must be confident, based on the information available and evidence provided, that you can deliver rapid and sustained improvements at the trust. 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 to a strong multi academy trust, appreciating the benefits that a transfer could bring. I also stated that, although you have agreed to work with the department on a transfer, I am issuing this 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 transfer takes place.

In accordance with sections 2B and 2D of the Academies Act 2010², any funding agreement of an academy may be terminated by the Secretary of State 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 understand that my team met with you both on 14 July 2023 to discuss the Termination Warning Notice process and the next steps. ██████████ emailed further on 18 July to explain that the team would be back in touch in September

regarding this notice. On 20 July, your match with a National Leader of Education (NLE) through the Trust and School Improvement Offer was confirmed.

I recognise the positive way in which the trust has engaged with my team during this process. For example, following the recommendation of the School Resource Management Adviser you have developed a school improvement plan for 2023-2024 and have identified that successfully joining a multi academy trust forms part of this plan. You have also identified priority areas such as improving the implementation and impact of the curriculum.

I understand this Termination Warning Notice will come as a disappointment to the trust. There are some positive comments in the Ofsted inspection report of February 2023. For instance, the report reflected that “Pewsey Vale is a welcoming and inclusive school” [where] “pupils say that staff know them as individuals.” They “feel safe and say that bullying is rare.” However, the report also highlights a number of concerns that require rapid and sustained improvement:

“Leaders do not have a clear enough picture of the quality of education that the school provides. Consequently, they are unable to take swift and effective action to make improvements. Leaders should ensure that they have an accurate overview of the quality of education that pupils receive.”

“Teachers do not always use assessment effectively to check what pupils know and remember. As a result, some teaching does not remedy gaps or misconceptions in pupils’ knowledge and understanding of the curriculum. Leaders should ensure that assessment supports pupils to build their knowledge and retain it in their long-term memory.”

“Some pupils with SEND, including those who need help with their reading, do not receive timely or appropriate support. As a result, they find parts of the curriculum difficult to follow. Leaders should ensure that pupils in the early stages of learning to read receive the right support.”

For these reasons, I believe that the trust requires the support of a strong multi academy trust partner to support the delivery of necessary improvements at pace. 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 trust’s funding agreement pursuant to sections 2B and 2D of the Academies Act 2010.

- Following on from the Academy’s feedback to the School Resource Management Adviser’s Report (prepared between February and April 2023), trustees will explore, agree costs and scope of a full External Review of Governance (ERG) with a quality provider by **Monday 30 October 2023**. The scope of the review should also be agreed with my team by this date (via email). The ERG should then be commissioned by **Monday 6 November, 2023**.
- Continue to work closely with the NLE identified to provide support through the Trusts and School Improvement offer, to deliver improvements at the Academy,

and implement the actions identified through the partnership and provide my team with termly updates on progress. The first update, via a Teams meeting, to be provided by **Wednesday 15 November 2023 as part of the first monitoring meeting**. My team will arrange a call with you after October half term to schedule the necessary appointment.

- Submit an improvement plan to my team by **Thursday 12 October** to obtain their agreement that it is credible, affordable, achievable and addresses the following weaknesses identified by Ofsted, namely:
 - An accurate overview by Leaders of the quality of education that pupils receive;
 - Clarity that the curriculum is effective in extending pupils' knowledge and skills;
 - Effective use of assessment to ensure that it remedies gaps or misconceptions in pupils' knowledge and understanding;
 - Timely and appropriate support for all pupils with SEND, particularly those in the early stages of reading.

The trust must implement the agreed improvement plan and provide termly updates on the actions and milestones within the plan (or other information as requested). The first update must be submitted to the department by **Wednesday 15 November 2023 as part of the first monitoring meeting**. Where there are delays or risks, the trust must explain how these are being addressed.

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.

The trust must respond to this Termination Warning Notice by **Thursday 5 October 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 Thursday 5 October 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 Wiltshire Council. A copy of this letter will also be published on GOV.UK.

Yours sincerely



Hannah Woodhouse
Regional Director for the South West