



Department
for Education

Regional Director's Office for the South West
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The Members and Trustees of
South East Cornwall Multi Academy Regional Trust
Liskeard School And Community College
Luxstowe
Liskeard
PL14 3EA

11 September 2023

Dear [REDACTED],

Termination Warning Notice to the Members and Trustees of the South East Cornwall Multi Academy Regional Trust in respect of Saltash Community School

I notified the trust on 23 February 2023 that Saltash Community School is not making necessary improvements.¹ On 22 March 2023 I invited the trust's 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 on 27 June 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 therefore intend to issue a Termination Warning Notice.

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.

The Academy has been part of South East Cornwall Multi Academy Regional Trust (formerly Saltash Multi Academy Regional Trust) since April 2011. In May 2019 the Academy received a Requires Improvement judgement from Ofsted and in December 2022, the Academy received a further Requires Improvement judgement.

¹ 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 regulation 4 of the Coasting Schools (England) Regulations 2022.

² Inserted by section 14 of the Education and Adoption Act 2016

I acknowledge that there are positive elements to the recent Section 5 Ofsted inspection in December 2022, which highlights good behaviour and attitudes, personal development, and sixth-form provision, however, the Ofsted report published following the inspection also highlights that:

- “The work that teachers give to pupils, and how they present it, does not always meet the aims of the curriculum. Therefore, some pupils are not able to build successfully on what they already know. This hinders their progress through the curriculum. Leaders should ensure that all pupils receive appropriate work that is clearly explained so they are best able to learn.”
- “In some subjects, checks on pupils’ understanding are not frequent or careful enough. As a result, some pupils have gaps in their knowledge or develop misconceptions which persist. Leaders should ensure that assessment of what pupils know is effective across all subjects.”
- “Leaders, including governors, have not acted quickly enough to improve the school. As a result, weaker practice has continued to have a negative impact on pupils’ education. Leaders and governors should act regularly and effectively to improve the quality of education across the school.”

I note in the trust’s representations that you have outlined some priority areas in which you are seeking to improve leadership and the quality of education at the Academy. I have also considered that you state you have:

- Ensured middle leaders have received systematic training and support, regular observation cycles and incremental coaching is also in place.
- Developed the ‘6 Classroom Principles’ to develop teaching practice.
- Implemented a trust wide system of training for all subject leaders.
- Utilised the support from CELT via the Trust and School Improvement Offer where resulting recommendations have begun to be implemented.
- Secured three days of consultation support for the summer term from Justine Hocking (HMI).
- Engaged directly with the DfE attendance advisor and formulated an action plan for improving pupil attendance.

Notwithstanding the above actions, I am not assured by the information provided by the trust in its representations and continue to be concerned that the necessary improvements in the quality of education and leadership and management will not be achieved at pace or to the level required to address leadership capacity and sustained improvements at the Academy. In particular, rapid and sustained improvements that are required in quality of education and leadership and management. Indeed, the representations share little detail on the specific plans to address the areas for improvement identified by Ofsted.

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 sections 2B and 2D of the Academies Act 2010.

- For South East Cornwall Multi Academy Regional Trust to identify a suitable

multi academy trust (agreed by the DfE) to enter into a trust partnership by 16 October 2023 utilising their skills and experience to drive school improvement at Saltash Community School. DfE Regions Group will be in touch with you by the week commencing 11 September 2023 to discuss suitable partnership options. For the trust partnership arrangement to be agreed with the DfE and to commence no later than 16 October 2023. The partnership will support the trust to enable rapid improvements at the school. For 15 December, please provide an update on the progress of the trust partnership arrangements. After this, updates on the trust partnership will be integrated into progress updates for the agreed plan (referred to in the following bullet points).

- For South East Cornwall Multi Academy Regional Trust to provide a plan (the 'agreed plan') to show how it will improve the way school improvement is tracked across the Academy and how issues preventing improvement will be responded to, including how this will be reported to the executive leadership team and the trust board. Within this plan, you should reference the trust partnership arrangements and milestones. The draft plan to be discussed in a monitoring meeting with DfE Regions Group the week commencing 13 November 2023 and a finalised plan to be provided by 15 December 2023.
- Implement the agreed plan to ensure rapid and sustainable improvements at the Academy (for example, demonstrated through improved outcomes and Ofsted monitoring). To provide regular updates on the actions and progress against milestones in the agreed plan. For 8 March 2024, please provide updates and progress against milestones in your agreed plan (including the management partnership) and we will meet with you to discuss on or before 28 March 2024. The updates thereafter should be submitted no less than three weeks prior to the last day of each term, and a meeting held with DfE Regions Group to discuss the updates prior to the last day of each term, until the trust is notified that further updates are no longer required.

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.

The trust must respond to this Termination Warning Notice by 2 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 2 October 2023, I may issue a notice terminating the Academy's funding agreement.

I am copying this letter to [REDACTED], South West Ofsted Regional Director, and to [REDACTED], Strategic Director of Together for Families at Cornwall Council. A copy of this letter will also be published on GOV.UK.

Yours sincerely



Hannah Woodhouse
Regional Director, South West Regions Group

CC: Ofsted
, Strategic Director - Together for Families, Cornwall Council