



Department
for Education

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

The Members and Trustees of Fairfax Academy Trust
Fairfax Multi Academy Trust
Fairfax Road
Sutton Coldfield
West Midlands
B75 7JT

11 September 2023

Dear 

Termination Warning Notice to the Members and Trustees of the Fairfax Multi Academy Trust in respect of Smith's Wood Academy

In accordance with sections 2A and 2D of the Academies Act 2010 any funding agreement of an academy may be terminated by the Secretary of State where special measures are required to be taken in relation to the academy or the academy requires significant improvement and the Chief Inspector of Ofsted has given notice of that under section 13(3)(a) of the Education Act 2005.

I received an Ofsted notification dated 18 May 2023 confirming that Smith's Wood Academy had been 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.

According to the findings in your recent Ofsted inspection, it has been found that:

- Leaders have not established a culture of vigilance around safeguarding. Absence and internal truancy are not followed up quickly enough to ensure that pupils are safe and there are frequent incidents of unsafe behaviour between pupils. All of this leaves pupils at risk of harm and some do not feel safe.
- Staff do not implement the school's behaviour policy consistently. As a result, poor or inappropriate behaviour is not dealt with effectively.
- Pupils are not explicitly taught how to behave and expectations of their behaviour are too low. As a result, poor behaviour is common and creates a climate where, too often, pupils cannot learn or do not want to come to school.
- Absence is very high and a large proportion of pupils frequently truant from lessons. As a result, many pupils have a fractured experience of education, which adversely affects their academic achievement and their personal development.

- Teachers do not consistently check pupils' understanding of what they have learned, both in lessons and over time. This means that they sometimes move the learning on before pupils are ready.
- Leaders are not providing enough well-tailored support to help pupils who struggle with reading. As a result, too many pupils cannot read well enough to thrive in their lessons.
- Trustees and trust leaders have not held previous school leaders to account effectively for key aspects of the school's work. As a result, weaknesses have been allowed to persist and a culture of low expectation has set in.

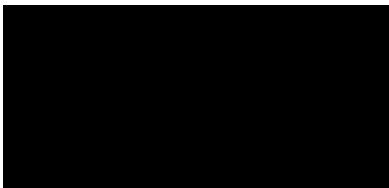
As Regional Director, I need to be satisfied that the trust has capacity to deliver rapid and sustainable improvement at the academy. If I am not satisfied that this can be achieved, I will consider whether to terminate the funding agreement in order to transfer the academy to an alternative academy trust.

In making the decision on whether to terminate the funding agreement I will consider any written representations the trust wishes to make in response to this Termination Warning Notice.

Please provide me with any representations the trust wishes to make by 2 October 2023.

I am copying this letter to Ofsted and Solihull Local Authority. A copy of this letter will **also be published on GOV.UK.**

Yours sincerely



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

CC: Ofsted
Council



Solihull Metropolitan