



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/Trustees of St Edward's Church of England Academy
Westwood Road
Leek
Staffordshire
ST13 8DN

Email sent to:

[REDACTED] Chair of Trustees, [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] CEO, [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED], [REDACTED]

03 July 2023

Dear [REDACTED],

Termination Warning Notice to the Members and Trustees of the St Edward's Church of England Academy Trust in respect of St Edward's Church of England Academy

I notified the trust on 6 October 2022 that the St Edward's Church of England Academy ("the Academy") is not making necessary improvements.¹ On 28 February 2023 I invited the trust's representations in response to my 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 of 6 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 and believe being part of a strong multi-academy trust (MAT) is the best way to deliver improvements at your Academy. 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.

[REDACTED] will be in contact to discuss next steps.

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

St Edward's Church of England Academy opened in January 2013. The Academy has been Requires Improvement since February 2018.

The 2022 Ofsted report identified the following key areas for improvement:

- Leaders do not monitor all aspects of their work sufficiently well. This means that they do not have an accurate view of the school's strengths and weaknesses and so they are unable to take effective action to address areas needing development. For example, leaders are not clear enough about incidents of poor behaviour or the progress of pupils with SEND. Leaders should make sure that they develop effective processes to enable them to monitor their work and identify appropriate next steps.
- Some subject leaders have not identified the important information that pupils need to know. This means that pupils are not able to build on key knowledge over time. Leaders should make sure that all curriculum planning identifies the key knowledge pupils need to learn in the right sequence so that that pupils know more and remember more.
- Leaders have not made sure that the school's curriculum is of sufficient breadth and depth in Years 7 and 8. Some subjects, such as creative arts, are not allocated sufficient time to deliver their curriculum. This means that pupils are not able to develop the knowledge and skills they need to progress to their next stage of education. Leaders should make sure that the school's curriculum is of similar depth, breadth and ambition to the national curriculum in Years 7 and 8.

The following action ("the Specified Action") must be taken by the stated timescale otherwise 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.

Please provide an updated action plan by 11 September 2023 with milestones for improvement. The plan and milestones will be subject to agreement by the Regional Director. Following agreement of the plan, it should be implemented with termly updates on the actions taken and progress achieved towards milestones. This should be subject to a review in 12 months.

I will monitor progress made towards meeting the Specified Action. If the trust fails to meet the Specified Action by the specified date, I will consider whether to terminate the funding agreement in order to transfer the Academy to an alternative trust.

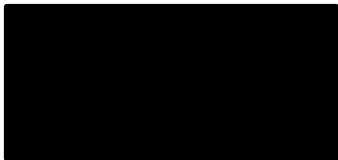
I reserve the right to amend this Termination Warning Notice to specify further action which the trust must take, and the date by which it must be completed.

The trust must respond to this Termination Warning Notice by 11 September 2023 making any representations the trust wishes to make in response to this Termination Warning Notice and the above Specified Action, or providing confirmation that the trust intends to comply with the above Specified Action by the specified dates.

If the trust fails to respond to this Termination Warning Notice by 11 September 2023, I may issue a notice terminating the Academy's funding agreement.

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

Yours sincerely



Andrew Warren
Regional Director for the West Midlands
CC: Ofsted, Staffordshire Local Authority, Diocese of Lichfield