

25 Sept 2023

Pendle Education Trust
Nelson And Colne College
Scotland Road
Nelson
BB9 7YT

Termination Warning Notice to the Members and Trustees of Pendle Education Trust in respect of West Craven High School

I notified the trust on 14th October 2022 that West Craven High School (“the Academy”) is not making necessary improvements.¹ On 7th February 2023 I invited the trust’s representations in response to the notification letter. 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 stated in my letter of 6 July 2023, 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. Because of the limited information provided in the trust’s representations it is not possible for me to be confident that the trust has the necessary actions in place to improve the school. I therefore intended to issue a Termination Warning Notice.

In accordance with clauses 5.B to 5.E of the mainstream SFA of the funding agreement for West Craven High School, the Secretary of State may terminate the funding agreement 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.

West Craven High School converted to academy status on 1 September 2016. Since this time, two Section 5 Ofsted inspections have occurred, the first

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.

inspection in November 2019 resulted in an overall Inadequate judgement and the second in June 2022 an overall Requires Improvement. The 2022 inspection judged RI in all areas, an improvement from the 2018 inspection where the Academy was judged Inadequate in all areas apart from Personal Development which was judged Requires Improvement.

The June 2022 Ofsted report identifies areas for improvement. The report states that:

- “Some teachers do not have the necessary expertise or guidance that they need to deliver some aspects of subject curriculums well. This includes using assessment strategies effectively to check that pupils have learned earlier curriculum content. This means that some pupils are hindered in their progress through subject curriculums, and this prevents them from achieving as well as they should.”
- “There are inconsistencies in how well some teachers use the information that they receive about pupils with SEND. This hampers how well this group of pupils are helped to access subject curriculums.”
- “Some staff, particularly those staff working at the school on a temporary basis, do not use leaders’ systems and procedures to manage pupils’ behaviour consistently well or as intended.”
- “Some teachers who deliver the personal development curriculum have not received sufficient training to teach some aspects of curriculum content well.”

I note the actions the trust has already taken to improve the school, as evidence in the most recent Ofsted inspection. However, the representations do not set out the actions the trust is and will take to address the findings from the Ofsted inspection, how these will be monitored and how the trust board and executive leadership will assure itself that the school is improving in a sustained way.

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 5.B of the funding agreement.

- Produce a revised and quality-assured improvement plan to address the findings in the Ofsted report. This is to be shared with my team by 16th October 2023. The improvement plan must clearly set out how the trust will monitor progress at the Academy. The plan and milestones will be subject to agreement by the department.
- Implement the agreed plan and provide termly updates to my team on progress against the action plan and the impact of those actions in the Academy. The first update is to be submitted by December 2023.
- To provide a detailed record of the external school improvement support the school is receiving, including any reports provided by the school improvement partner.

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.

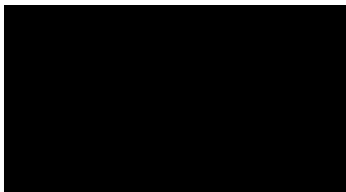
I reserve the right to amend this Termination Warning Notice to specify further action which the trust must take, and the date by which it must be completed.

The trust must respond to this Termination Warning Notice by 16th October, 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 16th October, I may issue a notice terminating the Academy's funding agreement.

I am copying this letter to Ofsted and Lancashire County Council. A copy of this letter will also be published on GOV.UK.

Yours sincerely

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Regional Director for North West

A large black rectangular redaction box covering contact information.