



Department
for Education

Regional Director's Office

Vicky Beer CBE
Regional Director, North West Regions
Group
Department for Education
Piccadilly Gate
Store Street
Manchester
M1 2WD

The Members and Trustees of Werneth School
Harrytown
Romiley
Stockport
SK6 3BX

1 February 2024

Dear Ms White,

Termination Warning Notice to the Members and Trustees of the Education Learning Trust in respect of Werneth School

In accordance with clauses 5F to 5H of the funding agreement for Werneth School ("the Academy") the Secretary of State may terminate the funding agreement if the Chief Inspector gives notice to the Academy Trust that special measures are required to be taken in relation to the Academy or the Academy requires significant improvement.

I received an Ofsted notification dated 9 January 2024 confirming that Werneth School was judged to be inadequate and has serious weaknesses. For the reasons set out below, I now consider it necessary to issue this Termination Warning Notice.

The Ofsted report highlights the following areas of concern:

- The school, together with the local governing body and the trust, has not taken effective or timely action to tackle the poor behaviour and attendance rates of some pupils in the school. As a result, absence rates are high and learning is disrupted.
- A significant minority of pupils do not behave well around the school building. In addition, some pupils do not behave well in classrooms. Some pupils show a lack of respect for their peers and staff. Poor behaviour is not tackled well

enough, especially around the school. This spoils pupils' enjoyment of school and hinders their learning.

- Too many pupils, especially disadvantaged pupils and those with SEND, are absent from school. This means that they miss out on valuable learning time and the gaps in their knowledge widen.
- Some subject curriculums are at an early stage of development. In these subjects, the key knowledge that pupils should learn has not been identified. This means that teachers do not have the information that they need to ensure that pupils know and remember more. This leads to unevenness in pupils' achievement across subjects.
- Some pupils with SEND do not receive the support that they need to access the curriculum. This hinders their achievement.
- Some older pupils do not receive appropriate support to help them overcome gaps in their reading knowledge. This hinders these pupils from accessing the curriculum. It hampers their overall achievement.
- Some teachers do not use assessment strategies effectively enough to check pupils' learning. This means that some pupils have gaps in their learning that go unaddressed. This hampers pupils' achievement.
- Some aspects of the school's work to support pupils' personal development are not designed or implemented consistently well. This means that some pupils do not gain all of the knowledge that they need in readiness for life in modern Britain.

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 wish to make in response to this Termination Warning Notice.

Please provide me with any representations the trust wish to make by **Friday 1 March 2024**. These should include, but are not limited to:

- The post-Ofsted inspection plan for the academy. This should include how issues identified with behaviour will be addressed and attendance rates improved;
- details of how the trust plans to develop its curriculum so key learning is identified and planned effectively to enable pupils to build a secure body of subject knowledge over time;
- details of the support the trust plans to provide to staff so they are well equipped to adapt the delivery of the curriculum to meet the needs of pupils

with SEND and support older pupils to overcome gaps in their reading knowledge; and

- details of the trust's strategy for identifying and addressing gaps in pupils' learning that will enable pupils to catch up quickly.

We are mindful of creating unnecessary pressures on school leaders and staff, and as such we would ask the trust to ensure that the appropriate provision is in place to support the school workforce.

I am copying this letter to Ofsted, and to Chris McLoughlin at Stockport Council. A copy of this letter will also be published on GOV.UK.

Yours sincerely



Vicky Beer CBE
Regional Director for North West

CC:

Ofsted

Chris McLoughlin, Director of Children's Services, Stockport Council