



Department  
for Education

**Regions Group North East  
Department for Education  
Bishopsgate House  
Feethams, Darlington  
DL1 5QE**

**Email:**  
[rg.ne@education.gov.uk](mailto:rg.ne@education.gov.uk)

11 March 2024

Dear Mr Baker,

### **Notice to Improve**

On 23 January 2023, we wrote to you in your capacity as the Chair of Trustees at St Aidan's Church of England Academy ("the Trust") to serve notice that the Trust was required to improve the financial management and governance at the trust.

This was as a consequence of 30 breaches of the Academy Trust Handbook (ATH) and breaches of the Companies Act 2006 being identified by an ESFA financial governance review in October 2022. The Notice to Improve ("the Notice") set out the actions that were needed to be taken by the trust to make sure necessary improvements were made.

We have closely monitored the trust's progress against the conditions set out in the Notice, which included implementing new financial management and monitoring structures, ensuring improved compliance, updating policies, ensuring the trust board are effective and undertaking an External Review of Governance and a Schools Resource Management Adviser deployment. We are pleased to inform you that we are satisfied that these conditions have been met. As a result, the Notice will be lifted with effect from the date of this letter. This letter will be published on the GOV.UK website.

It is important that the trust continues to embed the controls and processes which have led to this improvement and continues to exercise strong financial oversight of the trust. We would like to thank you for your contribution in ensuring the trust has reached this position.

Yours sincerely

**Katherine Cowell  
Regional Director, North East**



**Lindsey Henning**  
**Director, Schools Financial Support & Oversight, ESFA**

CC. Dean Lythgoe – Accounting Officer  
Anne Crossland – Member  
David Crossland – Member  
Nigel Wylvey-Birch – Member  
Gill Booth – Member