



Department  
for Education

Regional Director for North West  
Piccadilly Gate  
Manchester  
M1 2WD

The Members and Directors of Romero Catholic Academy Trust  
Office 204, Group First House Mead Way,  
Shuttleworth Mead, Padiham,  
Burnley,  
BB12 7NG

3 July 2024

Dear Ms Ager,

**Termination Warning Notice to the Members and Directors of the Romero Catholic Academy Trust in respect of St Mary's Roman Catholic Primary School, a Voluntary Academy**

In accordance with clauses 5F to 5H of the funding agreement for St Mary's Roman Catholic Primary School, a Voluntary Academy (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 12 June 2024 confirming that St Mary's Roman Catholic Primary 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 published on 21 June 2024 highlights the following key areas of concern:

- The school, including the trust, does not fulfil its statutory duties to safeguard pupils and to ensure staff's welfare. This puts pupils and staff at risk of harm.
- Trustees and the members of the local governing body do not provide sufficient challenge to the school to ensure that pupils receive a good education. As a result, some pupils underachieve and are not well prepared for the next stage of their education.
- The school has low expectations of pupils' behaviour. It has not established a suitable behaviour system or clear routines that are understood by staff and pupils. Consequently, pupils' conduct in lessons and around the school is poor. This interrupts other pupils' learning. It also makes other pupils feel unsafe.
- The school does not provide effective support to vulnerable pupils or to those who find managing their emotions difficult. This, in turn, contributes to the poor behaviour on display around the school. There are limited opportunities for pupils

to share their concerns and worries. This means that pupils who have experienced trauma or difficulties in their lives do not receive the help and support that they need Pupils' absence rates are high. The school, and those responsible for governance, do not keep a close enough track on pupils' rates of attendance. This puts some pupils at risk of harm. It also means that they miss much of their education.

- In key stages 1 and 2, teachers have not received the support or the guidance that they need to fully implement the curriculum, including reading in key stage 2, as intended. This means that some pupils do not build their knowledge securely over time.
- Pupils' understanding of fundamental British values is underdeveloped. This results in pupils showing a lack of regard for others, including pupils and adults in the school. It also means that they do not gain respect for differences between people in modern society.

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 Wednesday 24 July 2024. These should include, but are not limited to:

- A copy of the post-Ofsted action plan.
- **Safeguarding:** Evidence that there are effective safeguarding arrangements in place to provide confidence that the trust is fulfilling its statutory responsibilities in keeping children and staff safe from harm.
- **Leadership and governance:** Evidence that there is strong and stable leadership and effective governance in place at all levels to drive rapid and sustained school improvement and ensure children are safe.
- **Attendance:** Evidence that demonstrates your plans to improve attendance and ensure that it remains on a sustained trajectory.
- **Behaviour:** Evidence that effective behaviour policies have been implemented and your plans to improve behaviour across the school.
- **Curriculum:** Evidence of how you are training staff to effectively deliver the curriculum.
- Any other information you feel would demonstrate how the school is taking rapid actions to improve the school.

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, Lancashire County Council and The Diocese of Salford. A copy of this letter will also be published on GOV.UK.

Yours sincerely

**Vicky Beer, CBE**  
**Regional Director for North West**

CC:

