



Department
for Education

Dame Kate Dethridge
Regional Director, South East Regions Group
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The Members and Trustees of The Gryphon Trust
The Arnewood School
Gore Road
New Milton
BH25 6RS

Sent by email to: [REDACTED]

18 October 2024

Dear Mr Wilkins,

Termination Warning Notice to the Members and Trustees of The Gryphon Trust in respect of The Arnewood School.

In accordance with sections 2A and 2D of the Academies Act 2010ⁱ any funding agreement of an academy may be terminated by the Secretary of State where special measures are required to be taken in relation to the academy or the academy requires significant improvement and the Chief Inspector of Ofsted has given notice of that under section 13(3)(a) of the Education Act 2005.

I received an Ofsted notification dated 13 May 2024 confirming that The Arnewood School was judged to require significant improvement. For the reasons set out below, I now consider it necessary to issue this Termination Warning Notice.

Ofsted stated in its March 2024 report:

- Some pupils' behaviour frequently disrupts lessons, hampering pupils' learning and progress overall. The school must further raise expectations of pupils' behaviour in lessons and around the school and ensure a more consistent response from staff to poor behaviour across the school.
- Some pupils feel uncomfortable in school because of bullying or prejudicial language. They do not always report these issues because they are not confident that staff will deal with them effectively. The school must address these aspects of the school's culture and restore the faith of all pupils that their concerns will be dealt with effectively.

- In some subjects, the important knowledge and skills pupils need to learn are not fully identified and carefully organised. This means that teachers do not always provide enough opportunities for pupils to embed and apply their knowledge. The school should continue to develop the curriculum to ensure that pupils accumulate key knowledge and skills over time in all subjects.
- Within and across subjects, there is variation in how effectively the curriculum is being delivered. Some teachers do not always use effective strategies to help pupils to learn well. As a result, not all pupils are learning as well as they should. The school needs to provide further training and support for staff to ensure that they have the knowledge and skills to deliver the curriculum effectively.
- Staff do not consistently adapt their teaching for pupils with SEND. This means the achievement of these pupils is variable. The school should ensure that staff are equipped with the knowledge and skills to adapt their teaching and rigorously check that pupils with SEND are learning as well as they could.
- Many pupils lack secure knowledge of important aspects of the citizenship curriculum. This means that they are not as well prepared for life in modern Britain as they could be. The school must ensure that it gives sufficient attention to teaching fundamental British values and checks that pupils develop secure knowledge and understanding of this aspect of the curriculum.

The Arnewood School has been in The Gryphon Trust since April 2011. Despite initial improvements, the school's Ofsted judgements began to decline. In January 2013, the school was judged outstanding. This declined to a good judgement in October 2018 and significantly declined again to its current requires significant improvement judgement in March 2024.

The March 2024 Ofsted report shows the sixth-form provision judged as good, which was previously outstanding. The quality of education, personal development and leadership and management were judged as requires improvement whilst behaviour and attitudes was judged as inadequate. All of these categories were previously judged good.

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 15 November 2024.

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 Hampshire County Council. A copy of this letter will also be published on GOV.UK.

Yours sincerely,



Dame Kate Dethridge
Regional Director, South East Regions Group

CC: Matthew Purves, Regional Director, South East, Ofsted
Stuart Ashley, Director of Children's Services, Hampshire County Council

ⁱ Inserted by section 14 of the Education and Adoption Act 2016