



Department
for Education

North West Regions Group Office
Piccadilly Gate
Manchester
M1 2WD

The Members and Trustees of Kings Academy Trust
Kings Academy Trust
City Approach 1
Albert Street
Eccles
M30 0BL

1 October 2024

Dear Mr Cooper,

Termination Warning Notice to the Members and Trustees of the Kings Academy Trust in respect of Arbour Academy

In accordance with clauses 5.F to 5H of the funding agreement for Arbour 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 9th of September 2024 confirming that Arbour Academy was judged to require significant improvement. 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:

- Until more recently, the school had not acted quickly enough to address the decline in pupils’ quality of education. This means that pupils do not build a secure body of knowledge that helps them to be well prepared for the next steps in their lives.
- Over time, a lack of cohesion in the curriculum has led to pupils’ weak achievement. In some subjects, the school has not ensured that staff receive the information that they need to build pupils’ knowledge over time.
- The systems for assessing pupils’ learning and identifying the gaps in their knowledge are underdeveloped.

- There is no coherent programme to support those pupils at the earliest stages of learning to read.
- The additional needs of pupils with SEND are not identified. This means that the delivery of the curriculum is not shaped well enough to enable these pupils to overcome their barriers to learning.
- Some pupils are on a reduced timetable. This means that they are missing learning and the wider opportunities to enhance their personal development.
- Pupils' rates of attendance are low. As a result, pupils miss out on important learning and key messages about growing up in modern day Britain.
- In some instances, the school has not ensured that it keeps suitable records to identify the actions that have been taken in relation to safeguarding incidents.

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 wishes to make in response to this Termination Warning Notice.

These should include, but are not limited to:

- The post-Ofsted inspection plan for the academy. This should include how issues identified with attendance will be addressed and 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;
- details of the trust's strategy for identifying and addressing gaps in pupils' learning that will enable pupils to catch up quickly;
- details of current governance and leadership arrangements at trust level, detailing how the trust board hold leadership to account.

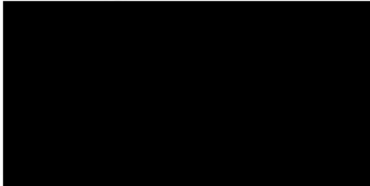
I am aware that the trust has already provided some representations, which I will take into account.

Please provide me with any additional representations the trust wishes to make by 22 October 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 Jonathan Smart at Ofsted, Melissa Caslake at Salford City Council and Amanda Nicholson, CEO at the trust. A copy of this letter will also be published on GOV.UK.

Yours sincerely



Vicky Beer CSE
Regional Director for North West

CC:
Jonathan Smart, Regional Director North West and West Midlands, Ofsted
Melissa Caslake Executive Director of Children's Services, Salford City Council
Amanda Nicholson, CEO, Kings Academy Trust