



Department
for Education

Regional Director's Office
South West Regions Group
Second Floor
3 Glass Wharf
Avon Street
Bristol
BS2 0PS

The Members and Trustees of Cotham Gardens Primary School,
18 Cotham Grove, Bristol, BS6 6AL

24 February 2025

Dear [REDACTED]

Termination Warning Notice to the Members and Trustees of Cotham Gardens Primary School

In accordance with clauses 7.6 to 7.7 of the mainstream single funding agreement dated 2018 for Colston's Primary School - now Cotham Gardens Primary 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 22 January 2025 confirming that the Academy was judged to require special measures. For the reasons set out below, I now consider it necessary to issue this Termination Warning Notice.

The Ofsted report published on 30 January 2025 highlights the following areas for improvement:

- The school, including the trust, lacks the capacity to bring about the necessary changes to pupils' learning at the required pace. A lack of oversight has led to a decline in the quality of education that pupils receive. The school and the trust must strengthen leadership capacity at all levels so that improvements are rapid and sustainable.
- The school has not ensured that staff have the knowledge and expertise that they need to deliver curriculum content. This means that pupils do not build a secure body of knowledge over time. This leads to gaps in their knowledge that go unchecked. As a result, pupils are not prepared for the next stage of their learning. The school must ensure that staff are well-informed and suitably guided to teach the agreed curriculum and to identify and remedy gaps in pupils' learning.
- Pupils with SEND do not receive the support that they need to learn all that they should. Consequently, pupils with SEND do not achieve well enough. The school must ensure that staff are suitably equipped to enable pupils with SEND to learn the curriculum so that they achieve well in all aspects of school life.
- Some pupils in the early stages of learning to read do not get the support that they need to catch up. The texts that they are given are sometimes too difficult for them to read. Beyond phonics, the reading curriculum is not designed to address pupils'

gaps in knowledge. This prevents these pupils from becoming accurate, confident and fluent readers. The school should ensure that the phonics programme and the reading curriculum are implemented fully to allow all pupils to succeed.

- The curriculum for some areas of learning in the early years does not enable children to achieve well. In addition, not enough is done to widen children's vocabulary and their communication and language skills. Consequently, children are not as well prepared for Year 1 as they should be. The school must ensure that staff have sufficient expertise to interact with children purposefully and deliver the curriculum for all areas of learning effectively.
- Staff do not follow the behaviour policy consistently well. At times, some pupils do not behave as well as they should. This disrupts the learning of others. The school should ensure that staff implement the behaviour policy as intended.
- The personal development offer is not implemented as well as intended. This means that pupils do not build a secure body of knowledge over time. It leads to gaps in pupils' understanding and means they are not as well prepared as they should be for life in modern Britain. The school must ensure that staff are suitably equipped to deliver the curriculums that promote pupils' personal development.

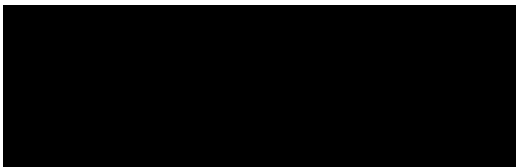
As Regional Director, I need to be satisfied that the trust has capacity to deliver rapid and sustainable improvement at the Academy. If I am not satisfied that this can be achieved, I will consider whether to terminate the funding agreement in order to transfer the Academy to an alternative academy trust. I am aware that the Academy has already indicated that it would be willing to transfer to a strong multi 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 17 March 2025.

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 Bristol Local Authority. A copy of this letter will also be published on GOV.UK.

Yours sincerely,



Lucy Livings
Regional Director for South West

CC: Ofsted, Bristol Local Authority