



Department
for Education

Direction: Victoria Poole-Birrell barred from managing independent schools

A decision from the Secretary of State to direct that Victoria Poole-Birrell should be prohibited from the management of independent schools.

Name: Ms Victoria Poole-Birrell

Former position: Proprietor, Colours Academy, Redlake Trading Estate, Ivybridge, Devon, PL21 0EZ

Prescribed grounds on which the direction has been issued:

The Secretary of State for Education finds Victoria Poole-Birrell unsuitable to take part in the management of an independent school (including an academy or free school) under section 128 of the Education and Skills Act 2008.

The barring decision also has the effect of disqualifying the person from being a governor at a local-authority-maintained school.

A person in receipt of a decision given under section 128 has a right to appeal to the first-tier tribunal in accordance with the Tribunal Procedure (First-tier Tribunal) (Health, Education and Social Care Chamber) Rules 2008. The person has 3 months to appeal from the date on the decision letter.

Summary

Ms Poole-Birrell engaged in relevant conduct namely:

- conduct which demonstrates that the individual poses a risk to children
- failure to take reasonable steps to ensure the health and safety of children and staff is adequately maintained; failure to put in place, manage and/or enforce safeguarding measures in line with statutory guidance
- a pattern or repetition of behaviours that individually do not amount to serious misconduct, but when considered together, highlight the person's unsuitability to take part in the management of independent schools

In the opinion of the Secretary of State, this is relevant conduct and makes Ms Poole-Birrell unsuitable to take part in the management of an independent school.