



## **Regulation of school managers and governors: prohibition direction**

**Name:** Mr James John Cooper (Formerly known as Mr Mark John Jones)

**Former position:** Chief Executive Officer

### **Prescribed grounds on which the direction has been issued:**

Under section 128 of the Education and Skills Act 2008, the “appropriate authority” (in this case the Secretary of State) may give a direction prohibiting a person from taking part in the management of an independent school on prescribed grounds connected with the person’s suitability. The grounds on which a person may be prohibited are prescribed in the Independent Education Provision in England (Prohibition from Participation in Management) Regulations 2014.

**A direction was given in respect of James John Cooper on 24 February 2025. The Secretary of State found that Mr Cooper had:**

- engaged in relevant conduct;
- has been found to be in breach of professional standards by a professional body;

and that because of this conduct he was unsuitable to take part in the management of an independent school (including an academy or Free School). The barring decision also has the effect of disqualifying the person from being a governor at a maintained school.

## **Summary**

In June 2024, a Teaching Regulation Agency professional conduct panel found Mr Cooper guilty of unacceptable professional conduct and conduct that may bring the profession into disrepute. This conduct represented a breach of the Teachers Standards, which set the minimum requirements for teachers’ practice and conduct. As a result, a prohibition order from teaching indefinitely has been imposed. Furthermore, in view of the seriousness of the allegations

proved against Mr Cooper, it was decided that he shall not be entitled to apply for restoration of your eligibility to teach.

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