



Department
for Education

Regional Director's Office
Regional Director
North West Regions Group
3rd Floor, Piccadilly Gate
Store Street
Manchester
M1 2WD

The Members and Trustees of Fylde Coast Academy Trust
Mereside Primary Academy
Langdale Road
Blackpool
FY4 4RR

By email: [REDACTED]

26th March 2025

Dear Ms Kathleen Evison,

Termination Warning Notice to the Members and Trustees of the Fylde Coast Academy Trust in respect of Unity Academy Blackpool

In accordance with clauses 5.F to 5H of the funding agreement for Unity Academy Blackpool ("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 25th February 2025 confirming that Unity Academy Blackpool 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 6th March 2025 highlights the following areas for improvement:

- Trustees and members of the local governing body have not held the school to account for the decline in the quality of education pupils receive. They have acted too slowly to secure much-needed improvements. As a result, pupils, including disadvantaged pupils, from Years 1 to 11 do not achieve well. Those responsible for governance must develop a detailed oversight of the performance of the school and secure rapid improvements to the quality of education.
- The delivery of the curriculum is weak. The activities staff design to teach the curriculum do not help pupils develop sufficient depth of knowledge about the subjects they study. This prevents pupils, including those with SEND, from achieving well. The school should ensure that staff are equipped to deliver the

curriculum successfully so pupils can build on what they know and deepen their learning over time.

- Staff are not quick enough to rectify gaps and misconceptions in pupils' knowledge. This means that pupils move on to new learning before they are ready. This hinders their progress through the curriculum. The school should ensure that staff address pupils' misunderstandings in a timely manner so pupils build their knowledge securely over time.
- In some lessons, pupils do not demonstrate positive attitudes towards their learning. When this happens, the behaviour of these pupils hinders the learning of others. The school should provide these pupils with the support they need so they are motivated by their studies and achieve well.

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 wishes to make by 2nd May 2025. These should include, but are not limited to:

- A copy of the post-Ofsted inspection action plan for the academy, which addresses the areas the school needs to improve on as detailed in the Ofsted report;
- Together with any other information you feel would demonstrate how the trust is taking rapid actions to improve the school;
- In addition, details of how the trust will ensure that there is strong and stable leadership and effective governance in place at all levels to drive rapid and sustained school improvement at both school level and trust level;
- To provide clarity on further steps the trust is taking to evaluate its oversight across all schools in the trust.


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 Vicky Gent, Director of Education and Children's Services at Blackpool Council and [REDACTED] Assistant Director of Education and Children's Services at Blackpool Council. A copy of this letter will also be published on GOV.UK.

Yours sincerely,


Vicky Beer CBE
Regional Director for North West Regions Group

CC:

Jonathan Smart – Regional Director for North West and West Midlands, Ofsted
Vicky Gent – Director of Education and Children’s Services, Blackpool Council
 – Assistant Director of Education and Children’s Services, Blackpool Council
Dean Logan – Chief Executive Officer, Fylde Coast Academy Trust