



Department
for Education

Regions Group
Yorkshire and the Humber
Bishopsgate House
Feethams
Darlington
DL1 5QE

Email: RG.YH@education.gov.uk

The Members and Trustees of Beckfoot Trust
Wagon Lane,
Bingley,
West Yorkshire,
BD16 1EE

Via email to: [REDACTED]

24 March 2025

Dear Mr Winkley,

Termination Warning Notice to the Members and Trustees of Beckfoot Trust in respect of Beckfoot Oakbank

In accordance with clauses 5.F to 5H of the mainstream SFA of the funding agreement for Beckfoot Oakbank ("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 26 February 2025 confirming that Beckfoot Oakbank 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 published on 07 March 2025 highlights the following areas of concern:

- The school has not successfully embedded changes to behaviour systems. This means that the behaviour of pupils during unstructured times has not been challenged sufficiently over time and remains a concern. The school must carefully embed, monitor and evaluate changes so that it is clear about which aspects are improving and which need increased focus.
- Pupils' behaviour during unstructured times, and on the corridor when they opt out of lessons, is poor. This disrupts pupils' learning and makes others feel less safe in school. The school must ensure that the behaviour policy is applied consistently and understood by all members of the school community.
- Some pupils do not attend school often enough, especially those with SEND or those in receipt of the pupil premium. This means that these pupils develop gaps in their knowledge and do not achieve as well as they should. The

school must intensify its actions to improve attendance by working with external agencies and parents and carers.

- The school does not address gaps in pupils' knowledge, especially if they have missed lessons. This means pupils do not achieve as well as they should. Leaders should develop systems to check pupils' understanding of their learning and ensure that gaps in knowledge are closed.
- There are inconsistencies in how well the needs of pupils with SEND are met. These pupils do not get the help they need in some lessons. The school should ensure that support for pupils with SEND is accurately identified and consistently provided by all staff.
- The school's work to promote respect for others and awareness of difference is not sufficiently developed. Some pupils do not show respect for others. The school should ensure that pupils understand the importance of respect and tolerance as part of their preparation for life in modern Britain.

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. At this time, I am concerned about the trust's capacity, as insufficient improvements have been made since Ofsted judged the academy to require significant improvement in November 2022 and the issue of the previous Termination Warning Notice, following that inspection. This Termination Warning Notice will replace the previous notice which was issued on 10 February 2023.

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.

I would be grateful for the following evidence, which I will take into account when assessing whether the Academy is making sufficient improvements:

- A copy of the post-Ofsted Action Plan
- Information on what action is being taken to support educational improvement at the Academy and the timescales of this work.
- Details of current governance and leadership arrangements, including clear lines of support, delegation and accountability.
- Details of plans improve attendance and behaviour and the timescales of this work.
- Any other information you feel would be helpful.

Please provide me with any representations the trust wish to make by 28 April 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, Mariam Haque, DCS of Bradford Metropolitan District Council, and Shirley Watson, CEO of the trust. A copy of this letter will also be published on GOV.UK.

Yours sincerely,

A solid black rectangular box used to redact a signature.

Alison Wilson
Regional Director for Yorkshire and the Humber

CC:
Katrina Gueli, Ofsted Regional Director
Mariam Haque, DCS of Bradford Metropolitan District Council
Shirley Watson, CEO of Beckfoot Trust