



Department
for Education

Department for Education
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The Members and Trustees of Eastern Education Group Trust
Out Risbygate
Bury St. Edmunds
IP33 3RL

4 April 2025

Dear Mr D'Souza,

Termination Warning Notice to the Members and Trustees of the Eastern Education Group Trust in respect of Stone Lodge Academy

In accordance with clauses 5.F to 5.H of the funding agreement for Stone Lodge Academy ("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 4 March 2025 confirming that Stone Lodge Academy was judged to require significant improvement (serious weaknesses). For the reasons set out below, I now consider it necessary to issue this Termination Warning Notice.

The Ofsted report published on 12 March 2025 confirmed that the quality of education, behaviour and attitudes and leadership and management of the school are inadequate, with personal development requiring improvement. The Ofsted report highlights the following areas of concern:

- Safeguarding is not effective. The school has failed to ensure that there are robust systems to keep pupils safe. Weak oversight means the school does not always identify risks or support vulnerable pupils quickly enough. Staff are not equipped to fulfil their safeguarding responsibilities, and concerns are not always addressed appropriately.
- The curriculum is not consistently well planned. The school has not ensured that all staff have the expertise to provide effective support for pupils who need to catch up with their reading. Assessment is not used effectively across the school.

- The school does not have a clear strategy to improve attendance for pupils who are persistently absent. The school does not analyse attendance patterns closely or intervene quickly when concerns arise.
- The trust has failed to provide the necessary oversight, challenge and support to ensure that the school meets its core responsibilities.

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 wish to make by Friday 9 May 2025. In addition, please provide me with the following:

- 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;
- Information on any other activity aimed at addressing weaknesses in the school's attendance and safeguarding processes, education provision and governance.

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 Suffolk County Council. A copy of this letter will also be published on GOV.UK.

Yours sincerely



Jonathan Duff
Regional Director for East of England

CC: Ofsted, Suffolk County Council