



Department
for Education

Lucy Livings
Regional Director for the South West
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The Members and Trustees of the Richard Huish Trust

Richard Huish College
South Road
Taunton
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By email only

13th May 2025

Dear Mrs Renville

Termination Warning Notice to the Members and Trustees of the Richard Huish Trust in respect of Pyrland school.

In accordance with sections 2A and 2D of the Academies Act 2010ⁱ any funding agreement of an academy may be terminated by the Secretary of State where special measures are required to be taken in relation to the academy or the academy requires significant improvement and the Chief Inspector of Ofsted has given notice of that under section 13(3)(a) of the Education Act 2005.

I received an Ofsted notification dated 22/04/2025 confirming that Pyrland school 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 22nd April 2025 highlights the following issues:

- The curriculum is not ambitious enough for pupils. Knowledge has not been clearly defined and sequenced. This means that pupils do not build on their prior learning or build their knowledge or understanding sufficiently well.
- The school does not adapt the curriculum to meet the needs of pupils well enough. This means that pupils with SEND and the weakest readers do not learn as well as they should.
- The school does not have high-enough expectations for pupils' conduct and attendance. Lessons are frequently disrupted, truancy from lessons is accepted and too many pupils are frequently absent. This impacts negatively on pupils' ability to learn in an orderly environment.

- The curriculum and wider experiences of pupils do not develop pupils' character and understanding of their role as citizens. The toleration of poor behaviour, including bullying, does not teach pupils to respect others. Therefore, pupils are not prepared well enough for adult life.
- The trust does not have an accurate understanding of the standard of education provided by the school and has not acted with enough urgency to tackle weaknesses. As a result, strategic plans and actions taken are not focused on the areas of the school which need greatest improvement.

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.

However, based on your letter (26th March 2025), I understand that following a formal meeting of the Board of Directors, the Trust Directors, Members and Executive are all in agreement that it is in the best interests of the school to no longer remain in the Trust.

Please provide me with any representations the trust wishes to make and/or confirmation that the Board of Directors has made a minuted decision to a voluntary transfer of Pyrland school by 4th June 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:

James McNeillie - South West Regional Director for Ofsted,
 John Abbot - Richard Huish Trust CEO,
 Claire Winter - Director of Children's Services at Somerset Council
 Edward Gregory - Director of Education at the Diocese of Bath and Wells.

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

Yours sincerely

Lucy Livings
Regional Director for the South West

CC:

James McNeillie - South West Regional Director for Ofsted
 John Abbot - the Richard Huish Trust CEO
 Claire Winter, Director of Children's Services, Somerset Council
 Edward Gregory, Director of Education, Diocese of Bath and Wells

ⁱ Inserted by section 14 of the Education and Adoption Act 2016