



Department  
for Education

Regional Director for North West  
Piccadilly Gate,  
Manchester,  
M1 2WD,

Kevin Sexton  
The LIPA Multi Academy Trust,  
41 Upper Duke Street,  
Liverpool,  
L1 9DY

By email: [REDACTED].

25 July 2025

Dear Mr Sexton,

**Termination Warning Notice to the Members and Trustees of the LIPA Multi Academy Trust in respect of LIPA Primary and High School**

In accordance with clauses 5.F to 5H of the funding agreement for LIPA Primary and High School (“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 25 June 2025 confirming that the Academy 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 10 July 2025 highlighted the following areas of concern:

- The trust has not taken effective action to stabilise the recent turbulence in the leadership and wider staffing at the school. Consequently, leaders and staff are stretched beyond capacity. This has led to high staff absence and a lack of continuity for pupils. Pupils and staff have suffered as a result. The trust must take urgent action to stabilise the staffing at the school and provide much needed capacity at leadership level so that all aspects of the school’s provision improve rapidly.
- The roles and responsibilities of those responsible for governance lack definition. The trust has not held the school to account for the decline in the quality of education that pupils receive. As a result, children in the early years and pupils across the rest of the school, including those with SEND and disadvantaged pupils, do not achieve well. The trust must ensure that it

gains an accurate insight into the school's effectiveness so that it can provide the necessary support and challenge to aid its improvement.

- Safeguarding arrangements are not effective. The systems to check pupils' safety and well-being when they are absent from school are not followed as set out in the school's policy. This means that the school does not have oversight of where these pupils are, which puts them at risk of harm. The trust must take immediate action to ensure that there is capacity in the attendance team to follow the attendance policies and keep pupils safe.
- The curriculum across the school lacks ambition and does not prepare pupils sufficiently well for each stage of their education. In the early years, children do not build the foundations that they need to be successful in Year 1. The school must ensure that it designs and implements a suitably coherent and ambitious curriculum, including in the early years, so that children and pupils make a strong start to their education.
- The activities that staff design to teach the curriculum do not help pupils to develop sufficient depth of knowledge about the subjects that they study. This prevents different groups of pupils from achieving well. The school must equip staff to deliver the curriculum successfully so that pupils can build on what they know and deepen their learning over time.
- The school has not ensured that staff adapt teaching to meet the needs of pupils with SEND. As a result, these pupils become disengaged and do not achieve as well as they should. The school should ensure that staff are equipped with suitable strategies to support pupils with SEND so that these pupils learn all that they should.
- Staff do not routinely rectify gaps and misconceptions in pupils' knowledge. They lack clarity about how to make checks on what pupils remember. This means that pupils move on to new learning before they are ready. Pupils are not prepared sufficiently well for each year or stage of their education. The school should ensure that staff address pupils' errors and misunderstandings promptly so that pupils build their knowledge securely.
- The school has not established consistently high expectations of pupils' behaviour. In lessons and around the school, the poor behaviour of some pupils, at times, goes unnoticed and unchallenged by staff. This hinders the learning of others and makes pupils feel unsafe. The school should clarify the expectations that it has about pupils' behaviour and ensure that staff receive the support that they need to address any incidents. This is to make sure that pupils are safe and can learn in a positive environment.
- The programme to support pupils' personal development is ineffective. It is not coherent or valued by many pupils. As a result, some groups of pupils do not understand how to treat each other with respect. The school must ensure that the programme to support pupils' personal development is fit for purpose and supports pupils to develop a clear understanding of how to treat each other in modern Britain.

I recognise the difficult context, particularly with the industrial action at the Academy and LIPA Sixth Form College. However, I remain concerned about the overall performance of the trust, including the recent Ofsted inspection at LIPA Sixth Form College, the impact of unstable leadership, the current financial position of the Trust and of your ability to promptly address the points highlighted in the Ofsted report.

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. This information could include, but is not limited to:

- 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.

Please provide me with any representations the trust wishes to make by 23 September 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 and Liverpool City Council. A copy of this letter will also be published on GOV.UK.

Yours sincerely



**Vicky Beer CBE**  
**Regional Director for North West**

CC: Jonathan Smart, North West Regional Director, Ofsted  
Jenny Turnross, Corporate Director of Children's and Young People's Services, Liverpool City Council