



Department  
for Education

Regions Group  
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United Kingdom

Tel: 0370 000 2288

The Members and Trustees of Penk Valley Academy Trust  
Wolgarston High School  
Cannock Road  
Penkridge  
ST19 5RX

12 December 2024

Dear [REDACTED]

**Termination Warning Notice to the Members and Trustees of the Penk Valley Academy Trust in respect of The Rural Enterprise Academy.**

In accordance with clauses 5.F to 5.H of the funding agreement for The Rural Enterprise 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 19 November 2024 confirming that The Rural Enterprise 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 27 November 2024 highlights the following areas for improvement:

- The school has not ensured that information about safeguarding is kept in an organised and useable way. As a result, interventions are not always timely or effective and pupils continue to be at risk. The school should make sure that safeguarding records provide effective oversight of actions to ensure pupils receive the support they need at the time they need it to be safe.
- The school has not completed appropriate checks, including safeguarding checks, for external placements pupils attend. This means pupils are at potential risk of harm. The school should ensure that placements pupils attend are suitable to meet their needs and that they are safeguarded.
- Patterns of pupils' attendance are not monitored nor analysed effectively. Attendance remains low. The school does not always know where pupils are, why they are not in school and if they are safe. The school should analyse

attendance data rigorously and use it to inform appropriate actions and interventions to support pupils and their families.

- Pupils do not benefit from a high-quality education. The curriculum is not sequenced in a coherent way. This means learning is not always linked well to what pupils already know and so they struggle to remember their learning. The school should ensure the curriculum in each subject is sequenced well so that pupils can build on their knowledge over time.
- The curriculum is not adapted to meet the needs of pupils. This means that pupils struggle to access the curriculum. The school should ensure learning opportunities are adapted to meet the range of pupils' needs and take into account their starting points.
- Reading has not been prioritised for those who struggle to read. The school does not know if the support in place is helping the pupils to improve their reading. The school should ensure it implements effective strategies to support pupils at the early stages of reading so they can catch up quickly.
- There is a lack of strategic oversight of what is happening in the school. As a result, insufficient action has been taken to tackle weaknesses at the school. As a result, pupils are not receiving an acceptable standard of education. The school should ensure effective monitoring of actions taken enables a clear understanding of their impact, and that there is increased accountability.
- Pupils who require support to help improve their behaviour are not getting the help they need. Too many pupils receive repeat consequences for poor behaviour. The school should ensure the analysis of behaviour data and effective interventions support these pupils to improve their behaviour.
- The school does not monitor the destinations of pupils effectively. There are an increasing number of pupils leaving the school who are not in education or employment. The school should use information about pupils' destinations effectively to ensure they get support to help them secure appropriate next steps.

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.

Assurance was sought from the trust to address immediate concerns on safeguarding. Please provide detail on the trust's longer-term plans to ensure improvements to its safeguarding arrangements as part of your representations by Friday 17 January 2025.

Please provide me with any representations the trust wish to make by Friday 17 January 2025. This deadline has been extended to take account of the school holiday.

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

Yours sincerely

**Andrew Warren**  
**Regional Director for West Midlands**

CC: Ofsted, Staffordshire County Council