

The Members and Trustees of Horizons Education Trust
Spring Common Academy
American Lane
Huntingdon
Cambridgeshire
PE29 1TQ

By email only

4 September 2025

Dear Mrs Perry

Termination Warning Notice to the Members and Trustees of the Horizons Education Trust in respect of Riverside Meadows Academy.

In accordance with clauses 5.F to 5H of the funding agreement for Riverside Meadows 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 15 July 2025 confirming that Riverside Meadows Academy 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 22 July highlights the following areas for improvement:

- The school has not ensured that the curriculum sets out how pupils' existing knowledge helps them secure new learning. This means that teaching does not explicitly link new knowledge to what pupils already know. Consequently, pupils find it difficult to secure new knowledge and do not learn as well as they should. The school and trust must ensure that the curriculum clearly sets out how prior learning links to new knowledge.
- The school has not ensured that staff have the subject and pedagogical knowledge they need to teach the curriculum as intended. As a result, teaching does not provide pupils with the clear explanations of new

information, adaptations that help them engage or suitable activities they need to secure learning. The school and trust must ensure that staff have the subject and pedagogical knowledge to teach the curriculum as designed.

- Some of the strategies to support pupils who struggle to attend school regularly often lack the focus to directly address individual pupils' needs and barriers. This means that some pupils do not feel adequately supported to return to school. The school and trust must ensure that the support provided to pupils addresses their individual barriers to attending school regularly and often.
- The school has not ensured that staff have a shared understanding of its vision and how it will be realised. This means that staff do not understand why changes are implemented. It has also led to marked differences in the provision between the two sites. A lack of performance indicators means staff and trustees are unable to measure how well actions are impacting on pupils' experience. The school and trust must ensure that staff and trustees understand and share its vision and how this will be realised in their practice.

The school has faced significant challenges over the past year, particularly due to changes in leadership and difficult staffing decisions have had to be made. The Ofsted report acknowledges that the reformed trust board has made changes to leadership structures across the trust, and school, and in the short time that experienced and qualified leaders have been in post, they have secured improvement in key parts of the school.

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 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 wishes to make by **Thursday 25 September 2025**.

Your representations should include but are not limited to further detail on how the changes are being implemented and managed, including the impact, and the capacity to secure further improvement. I will consider this along with supporting documentation such as a Post Ofsted Action Plan, a School Improvement Strategy, along with governance and finance information.

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, the trust CEO, the trust Director of Education and Cambridgeshire County Council. A copy of this letter will also be published on GOV.UK.

Yours sincerely,

[REDACTED]

Jonathan Duff

Regional Director

East of England, Regions Group

CC: Mike Sheridan (Ofsted), Adam Dabin (CEO), [REDACTED] (Director of Education), Horizons Education trust, Martin Purbrick, Executive Director for Children, Education and Families and [REDACTED] (Service Director for Education), Cambridgeshire County Council