



Department
for Education

Regional Director's Office
Yorkshire and the Humber Regions Group
Bishopsgate House
Feethams
Darlington
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The Members and Trustees of South Pennine Academies
South Pennine Academies Business and Training Centre
The Gateway
Lowfields Close
Lowfields Business Park
Elland
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[REDACTED]

11 September 2025

Dear Mrs Fathers

Termination Warning Notice to the Members and Trustees of the South Pennine Academies in respect of Park Lane Academy

In accordance with clauses 5.F to 5H of the funding agreement for Park Lane 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 9 July confirming that Park Lane 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 18 July highlights the following areas for improvement:

- Over time, pupils have not achieved the qualifications that they are capable of attaining in external assessments, such as GCSEs. This reduces pupils' options when moving on to the next step in education, training or employment. The school should improve the quality of education offered for pupils throughout key stages 3 and 4, to ensure that pupils receive the support needed to achieve better academic outcomes.
- The quality of the implementation and delivery of subject curriculums is

variable. As a result, pupils do not learn as well as they should. The academic progress they make is not as strong as it should be. The school should further develop staff subject expertise so that the intended subject curriculums are delivered consistently well.

- The school's inconsistent approach to assessment is not supporting pupils to make the intended progress. This means that some pupils have unidentified gaps in learning that are not addressed or resolved before starting new subject content. The school should ensure that assessment is linked to the content taught and is used effectively to identify and close gaps in pupils' learning.
- Some staff do not fully use the information provided to meet the needs of pupils with SEND. This means that, on occasion, pupils with SEND are not fully supported to access and understand the important knowledge content. The school should ensure that staff use the precise information shared about each pupil with SEND effectively to allow these pupils to access learning fully and thrive.

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. At this time, I am concerned about the trust's capacity, as insufficient progress has been made since Ofsted last inspected the school in October 2022.

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.

I would be grateful for the following evidence, which I will take into account when assessing whether the Academy is making sufficient improvements:

- 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, including clear lines of support, delegation, and accountability.
- Details of plans to improve quality of education and leadership and management, and the timescales for this work.
- Any other information you feel would be helpful.

Please provide me with any representations the trust wishes to make by Thursday 2nd October.

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, Jemima Flintoff, Assistant Director of Education and Inclusion at Calderdale Council, and Alison Black, CEO of the trust. A copy of this letter will also be published on GOV.UK.

Yours sincerely

A solid black rectangular box used to redact the signature of Alison Wilson.

Alison Wilson
Regional Director for Yorkshire and the Humber

CC: Ofsted, Jemima Flintoff, Assistant Director of Education and Inclusion at Calderdale Council, and Alison Black, CEO of the trust