



Department
for Education

Regional Director's Office

Regional Director
North West Regions Group
8th Floor, Piccadilly Gate
Store Street
Manchester
M1 2WD

The Members and Trustees of Changing Lives Learning Trust,
West Lakes Academy,
Main Street,
Egremont,
CA22 2DQ

Sent via email: [REDACTED]

4 September 2025

Dear Mr Davidson,

Termination Warning Notice to the Members and Trustees of Changing Lives Learning Trust in respect of West Lakes Academy.

In accordance with clauses 5.F to 5H of the funding agreement for West Lakes 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 7 July 2025 confirming that West Lakes Academy was judged to be requiring special measures. For the reasons set out below, I now consider it necessary to issue this Termination Warning Notice.

In its inspection report Ofsted highlighted concerns, including that:

- The trust has not held the school to account for the decline in the quality of education that pupils receive. As a result, pupils, including pupils with SEND and disadvantaged pupils and some students in the sixth form, 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 secure its improvement.
- Teaching is not successfully adapted to meet the needs of pupils with SEND. As a result, these pupils do not progress through the curriculum as well as they should. The school should ensure that all staff are equipped with effective strategies for supporting pupils with SEND and apply these approaches consistently in their teaching, so that pupils with SEND achieve

- 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. These activities reflect the low aspirations that the school has about what pupils should achieve. This prevents pupils, including those who are disadvantaged, from achieving well. The school must equip staff to deliver the curriculum successfully, so that pupils can build on what they know and develop a deeper understanding of important concepts in the subjects that they study.
- Staff do not routinely address gaps and misconceptions in pupils' knowledge and understanding. They lack clarity about what important knowledge pupils should know or how to make checks on what pupils remember with accuracy. This means that pupils move on to new learning before they have the necessary foundations to succeed. Pupils are not prepared sufficiently well for each year or stage of their education. The school must help staff to address pupils' errors and misunderstandings promptly, so that pupils build their knowledge securely.
- The school has not established consistently high expectations of pupils' attitudes to learning. In lessons, staff do not ensure that pupils make the most of the activities that they design for them. This is because the school has not provided pupils with the support that they need to become resilient learners. The school should clarify the expectations that it has about pupils' attitudes to their learning and ensure that staff receive the support that they need to ensure that all pupils learn successfully.
- The school's provision for pupils' personal development, including for some students in the sixth form, does not prepare them sufficiently well for life in modern Britain. The school's limited range of opportunities to take on responsibilities, or to develop pupils' talents and interests, prevents pupils from becoming confident and independent young people. The school should ensure that pupils make the most of a broad range of opportunities, so that they are well prepared to make a positive contribution to their community.

You will appreciate that, as Regional Director, I need to be satisfied that the trust has the 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 that has the capacity and experience to support the Academy to improve in the longer term. I welcome the positive discussions that I understand have been taking place between my team and trust leaders.

In making the decision on whether to terminate the funding agreement I will consider any written representations the trust wishes to make in response to this Termination Warning Notice.

I would also be grateful if the trust could provide the following information:

- A copy of the post-Ofsted inspection action plan for the academy, which addresses the areas the school needs to improve on as detailed in the Ofsted report. Together with any other information you feel would demonstrate how the trust is taking rapid actions to improve the school.
- Details of how the trust will ensure that there is strong and stable leadership and effective governance in place at all levels to drive rapid and sustained school improvement at the Academy.
- Clarity on further steps the trust is taking to evaluate its oversight of the Academy.

Please provide me with the above information and any other written representations the trust wishes to make in response to this Termination Warning Notice by no later than 25 September 2025. The deadline for response has been extended to take account of the school term holidays.

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 the Director of Children's Services at Cumberland County Council. A copy of this letter will also be published on GOV.UK.

Yours sincerely,



Vicky Beer CBE
Regional Director for North West

CC Judith Shafer, Ofsted, Martin Birch, Cumberland LA