



Department  
for Education

Regions Group North East  
Bishopsgate House  
Feethams, Darlington  
DL1 5QE

The Members and Trustees of Atomix Educational Trust  
c/o Prior Pursglove and Stockton Sixth Form College  
Church Walk  
Guisborough  
TS14 6BU

13 August 2025

BY EMAIL: Mr Timothy Blades, Chair of Trustees

[REDACTED]

Dear Mr Blades

**Termination Warning Notice to the Members and Trustees of Atomix Educational Trust ("the Trust") in respect of Bishopton PRU**

In accordance with clauses 5F to 5H of the funding agreement for Bishopton PRU ("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 2025 confirming that Bishopton PRU 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 17 July 2025 highlights the following areas for improvement:

- Since the previous inspection, necessary improvements to the school have been implemented too slowly. Consequently, the quality of education has not improved and standards of behaviour have declined. Recently introduced policies and procedures, including for behaviour, are helping to provide clarity for staff. However, the difference the changes are making is not yet secure enough to have a demonstrable impact on supporting pupils to behave well and achieve their best.
- The effectiveness of the delivery of the curriculum is too variable across the school. Pupils are not supported to build effectively on what they have learned before. As a result, pupils do not develop their knowledge and skills as well as they should. The school should ensure that curriculum leaders and teachers are supported to teach the curriculum well, so that pupils can achieve the best possible outcomes.
- Procedures to manage pupils' behaviour are not consistently effective. Some pupils are openly defiant. Staff do not manage unacceptable behaviour

effectively. The poor behaviour of some pupils has a detrimental effect on the learning and daily experiences of other pupils. The school should ensure that all staff know and understand the expectations for pupils' behaviour and that they apply strategies to manage pupils' behaviour consistently and effectively.

- Too many pupils are persistently absent from school. They miss essential learning and experiences, which has a negative impact on their education. The school should further intensify its efforts in working with parents and carers and pupils to ensure that pupils' attendance improves.
- While the trust is now taking important improvement action, this has not been enough to address embedded weaknesses. As a result, the weaknesses in standards of behaviour, the quality of education and the school's promotion of pupils' personal development are not being addressed sufficiently. The trust and the school must work together to implement the urgent improvements needed.

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 you wish to make in response to this Termination Warning Notice.

Please provide me with any representations you wish to make by Friday 19 September 2025. This deadline has been extended to take account of the school summer holiday period.

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, and Stockon-on-Tees Local Authority. A copy of this letter will also be published on GOV.UK.

Yours sincerely



**Katherine Cowell**  
**Regional Director for North East**

cc. Ofsted, Dr Nichole Munro, CEO, Atomix Educational Trust, Eddie Huntington, Assistant Director of Education, Inclusion and Achievement, Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council.