



Mr. Michael Wingrove
Chair of Trustees
Dorrington Academy Trust
Dorrington Academy
Dorrington Road
Birmingham
B42 1QR

Company Number: 08049062

16 December 2025

Dear Mr. Wingrove,

Notice to Improve

On 6 November 2024, the Department for Education (the department) issued Dorrington Academy Trust (“the trust”) with a Notice to Improve (Ntl).

This followed significant breaches of the Academy Trust Handbook (ATH) relating to non-compliance in financial management.

The Notice outlined the actions the trust needed to take to address these concerns, including to:

- submit all statutory financial returns on time
- ensure the trust’s governance structure is effective and compliant with the ATH
- comply with any actions recommended as a result of the investigation report and commission an independent review of the trust’s management and governance arrangements
- seek approval from the department for specific financial transactions and request approval from the department, in advance, for any actions under the revoked freedoms in the ATH
- implement a robust procurement policy
- give the department notice of all board meetings, including extra-ordinary meetings, including sight of agendas and minutes
- undergo a Schools Resource Management Adviser deployment and make reasonable endeavours to implement improvements identified in the report.

We have monitored the trust's progress closely. We are now satisfied that the required actions have been taken and improvements made. As a result, the Notice is lifted with immediate effect. This letter will be published on the GOV.UK website.

It is essential that the trust continues to apply the controls and processes that have supported this progress. These measures are key to maintaining strong financial oversight.

We would like to thank the Accounting Officer and the wider leadership team for their efforts in achieving this outcome.

Yours sincerely,



Sue Lovelock
Regional Director for West Midlands, DfE



Lindsey Henning
Director, Schools Financial Support and Oversight, DfE

CC:

John Harrison (Accounting Officer)
Chantelle Bayliss (Member)
Janet Hamilton-White (Member)
Keith Holt (Member)