



Email enquiry form:
<http://www.gov.uk/contact-dfe>

John Faulkes
Chair of Trustees
Everychild Partnership Trust
Hatchlands Road
Redhill
RH1 6AT
Company number: 10034289

27 January 2026

Dear Mr Faulkes,

Notice to improve: Everychild Partnership Trust

We are writing to you in your capacity as the Chair of Everychild Partnership Trust (the Trust), to inform you that the Department for Education (the department) has assessed that the Trust's breaches of the Academy Trust Handbook (ATH) relating to financial management are significant enough to warrant a Notice to Improve. On that basis, we are issuing the Trust with a Notice to Improve on financial grounds. We understand that this decision may be disappointing and want to assure you that we recognise the positive action the Trust has taken to date to address the concerns.

We recognise the cooperation and extensive discussions that have taken place between the Trust and officials and the changes you have already made to strengthen accounting and internal financial controls. However, our concerns remain in relation to the weak financial position of the Trust. This letter and its annexes serve as a written Notice to Improve financial management at the Trust (Notice to Improve or "the Notice"). It reflects the weak financial position of the Trust and continued concerns on long-term viability.

The Trust is required, pursuant to the provisions of the ATH and the Funding Agreement (FA), to comply with the terms of this Notice. These terms are set out in Annex A and Annex B.

Being issued with a Notice means that certain delegated authorities, as defined in the ATH, are revoked. All transactions previously covered by these delegations, regardless of their size, must now be approved in advance by the department, specifically:

- special staff severance payments
- compensation payments
- writing off debts and losses

- entering into guarantees, indemnities or letters of comfort
- disposals of fixed assets beyond any limit in the funding agreement
- taking up a leasehold or tenancy agreement on land and buildings of a duration beyond any limit in the Trust's funding agreement
- carry forward of unspent GAG from one year to the next beyond any limit in the funding agreement
- pooling of GAG

If the Trust seeks retrospective approval from the department this will be deemed a breach of the ATH. Further details of the approval process will be forwarded to the Trust's Accounting Officer upon acknowledgment of receipt of this letter. These delegated authorities shall be returned to the Trust once we are satisfied that the requirements of the Notice have been, and will continue to be, complied with to the satisfaction of the Secretary of State.

The department will monitor progress made towards meeting the requirements of this Notice and will keep us updated through regular case reviews. A decision to lift the Notice will be taken when we are satisfied the requirements set out in the Annexes have been met in full.

We will support the Trust as it implements the required changes through regular contact and clear routes of escalation to resolve any questions or queries you might have. However, if the Trust is unable to deliver the necessary improvement and fails to make sufficient progress against the original conditions, we reserve the right to issue a revised Notice and add further specific conditions. Should it become evident that the Trust is unlikely to fulfil the conditions and / or requirements set out in this Notice and / or within the agreed timescales, we will explore the contractual intervention options available.

In the event that the Trust fails to meet the requirements of this Notice to our satisfaction, it will be considered to have failed to comply with the terms of the ATH. Failure to comply will be deemed a funding agreement breach and may lead to termination.

If continued non-compliance with the ATH occurs, we may also refer the case to the Charity Commission and/or Insolvency Service for further investigation, as deemed appropriate in the circumstances.

We should be grateful if you would acknowledge receipt of this letter by email within three working days of the date of this letter to [REDACTED], who will be your main point of contact related to this Notice to Improve. In line with the requirements set out in our publishing policy, the Trust has 10 working days to offer any final comments on factual accuracy to DfE colleagues before publication. The Trust is required to publish the Notice on its website within 14 days of it being published on gov.uk and retain it there until the Notice is lifted.

We recognise that this may be an uncertain time for the Trust and its staff. We are mindful of creating additional pressures on individuals involved. Therefore, we ask the Trust to

ensure appropriate provision is in place to support all its staff, as necessary. You may find the Education staff wellbeing charter¹ helpful.

We will continue to keep clear and regular lines of communication open with you. As such, [REDACTED] will be in contact shortly to answer any questions you may have, and to discuss the next steps in more detail, including any support the Trust may require to drive the necessary improvements.

We look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely

Dame Kate Dethridge
Regional Director for South East, Department for Education

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Kate Dethridge'.

Lindsey Henning
Director, Schools Financial Support & Oversight, Regions Group, Department for Education

CC. Glenn Livingstone, Accounting Officer

¹ Education staff wellbeing charter: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/education-staff-wellbeing-charter>

Annex A: Everychild Partnership Trust

Notice to Improve

This Notice to Improve (the 'Notice') is a consequence of Everychild Partnership Trust (the 'Trust')

- *Failing to maintain robust oversight of the academy trust, including the cash position, bringing into doubt its ability to operate as a going concern as required in the Academy Trust Handbook (ATH) paragraphs 1.21, 2.2, 2.8 - 2.11, 2.16 and 2.21.*

Conditions

1. The Trust is required to comply with all the conditions set out in Annex B.

Financial management and governance requirements

2. The Trust is responsible for its own financial management, control and governance and is expected to take appropriate action to strengthen the weaknesses identified and return to compliance with the ATH.
3. The Trust should take all appropriate actions to ensure the action plan agreed with the department is fully implemented.
4. The department must be satisfied that the Trust is doing everything it can to rectify the weaknesses identified.

Monitoring and progress

5. The Trust is required to submit the evidence for the specific conditions to the timescales outlined in Annex B to enable the department to monitor compliance and progress.
6. Should it become evident that the Trust is unlikely to fulfil the conditions and / or requirements set out in this Notice and / or within the given timescales, the department will begin to consider and explore the contractual intervention options available.

Compliance and the end of the notice period

7. As outlined in Annex B, the Trust is required to submit evidence to demonstrate compliance with the conditions of this notice, which the department will use to monitor the Trust's progress. Annex B sets out the detail of the evidence required to fulfil the condition and the timescales to submit this evidence to the department.
8. When the Trust meets all the conditions outlined in this Notice, is fully compliant with the most recent edition of the ATH and no other breaches have been identified, we will write to the Trust to confirm that the Notice has been lifted.

Annex B: Everychild Partnership Trust

Table of conditions

The table below summarises the conditions that have been placed upon Everychild Partnership Trust (“the Trust”). It sets out the evidence the Trust must provide, and the timescales the Trust must meet, to show that they have complied with the Notice to Improve (“the Notice”). All conditions set out in the table must be met before the Notice can be lifted.

Condition 1	<p>The Trust is required to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">a) Comply with the funding agreement requirement to submit all audited reports, accounts and statements to the department on time and without qualification.b) Submit an Academies budget forecast return outturn (BFR) by the deadline required by the department.
Evidence required to show compliance with condition 1a	The department receives the Trust’s audited financial statements by 31 December, each year until the Ntl is lifted and thereafter as an ongoing requirement of the trust’s Funding Agreement.
Timescale for condition 1a	Submit audited reports, accounts and statements by 31 December 2025, and each year thereafter.
Evidence required to show compliance with condition 1b	The department receives the Trust’s BFR by the date required, each year until the Ntl is lifted and thereafter as an ongoing requirement of the trust’s Funding Agreement.
Timescale for condition 1b	Submit BFR by date required, each year until Ntl is lifted.

Condition 2	The Trust must request approval from the department, in advance, for any actions under the revoked freedoms in 6.19 of the Academy Trust Handbook. These requests should be sent using the Customer Help Portal. Retrospective approval will be deemed as a breach of the Academy Trust Handbook.
Evidence required to show compliance with condition 2	The Trust must submit a request for approval for any actions relating to the delegated freedom revoked under the terms of the Notice.
Timescale for condition 2	Until the Ntl is lifted.

Condition 3	The trust must provide SFSO with monthly management accounts, including a cashflow forecast, by the 15 th of subsequent month.
Evidence required to show compliance with condition 3	SFSO receives appropriate management accounts on time.
Timescale for condition 3	Fifteen calendar days after the end of each month until Ntl is lifted.

Condition 4	Ensure all necessary trustee and member contact details are up to date.
Evidence required to show compliance with condition 4	All relevant fields in Get Information About Schools must be completed accurately.
Timescale for condition 4	Within four weeks of the Ntl being issued. Ongoing requirement to ensure information is up to date thereafter.

Condition 5	<p>Prepare and submit a financial plan showing:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) how the trust will achieve a cumulative surplus position by the end of August 2027 and each year thereafter. This must be supported by robust budget forecasts with evidence to support realistic pupil number forecasts. (ii) repayment of the additional financial support provided by the department.
Evidence required to show compliance with condition 5	Submit a financial plan to the department by 31 March 2026, including the minutes confirming board approval.
Timescale for condition 5	By end March 2026 and reviewed quarterly thereafter until the Ntl is lifted.