



Department
for Education

Regions Group North East
Bishopsgate House
Feethams
Darlington
DL1 5QE

The Members and Trustees of Trinity Academy Newcastle
Trinity Academy Newcastle
Condercum Road
Newcastle Upon Tyne
NE4 8XJ

By email [REDACTED]

03 February 2026

Dear Mr McHugh,

Termination Warning Notice to the Members and Trustees of Trinity Academy Newcastle ("the Trust") in respect of Trinity Academy Newcastle

In accordance with clauses 5.F to 5H of the funding agreement for Trinity Academy Newcastle ("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.

As set out in [Support and intervention in schools](#), there is a presumption that academies found by Ofsted to require special measures will receive structural intervention. I received an Ofsted notification dated 19 January 2026 confirming that the Academy was judged to require special measures. For the reasons set out below, I now consider it necessary to issue this Termination Warning Notice.

The Ofsted report published on 28 January 2026 highlighted the following areas of concern under 'Next steps':

- Those responsible for governance must act with urgency to ensure that leaders have the training, capacity and experience to fulfil their safeguarding responsibilities so that pupils are safe and feel safe in school.
- Leaders should ensure that staff are trained and supported to accurately identify pupils' needs and remedy gaps in their knowledge so that pupils make the progress that they should through the curriculum.

- Leaders should ensure that staff gain the expertise that they need to use information about pupils' education, health and care plans, alongside guidance in specialist reports, to shape and adapt learning activities that enable them to progress from their starting points.
- Leaders should ensure that the curriculum in the secondary phase identifies the important subject knowledge that pupils need to learn and order this in a way that builds on pupils' previous learning.
- Leaders must establish a consistent and sustainable approach to managing pupils' behaviour, ensuring that staff are appropriately supported to implement the shared strategies effectively.
- Leaders and those responsible for governance should ensure that they adopt a strategic approach to rapidly improve pupils' levels of attendance and seek assurances that the pupils are safe when they are absent from school.
- Leaders and those responsible for governance should ensure that provision for pupils' personal development is consistently tailored to pupils' needs and that staff deliver it consistently well, so that all pupils benefit and are well prepared for their future lives.
- Those responsible for governance must build their knowledge and expertise so that they fulfil all of their statutory duties and they are better able to hold leaders to account for the quality of the school's work.
- Trustees must urgently build capacity within the school so that the shortcoming in pupils' education and wellbeing are tackled swiftly and lead to sustainable improvements.

In order to set the presumption of structural change aside, I, as Regional Director, must be satisfied that exceptional circumstances apply. Exceptional circumstances may apply, for example, if I am satisfied that the trust has demonstrated, through its representations and/or other evidence, that there has been an exceptional improvement or change in leadership capacity at trust and school levels since or shortly before inspection, which shows impact and which will secure rapid, and sustainable improvement at the academy. If I am not satisfied that exceptional circumstances apply, I will, in accordance with the Department's policy, consider terminating the funding agreement to enable the academy's transfer to an alternative academy trust.

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.

Thank you for your response to our letter dated 17 December 2025 about the safeguarding arrangements at the academy. If the trust wishes to make written representations in response to this Termination Warning Notice, I invite further information on the trust's long-term plans to ensure improvements to safeguarding arrangements are implemented.

Please provide me with any representations the trust wishes to make by 03 March 2026. This deadline has been extended to take account of the school holiday.

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 Newcastle City Council. A copy of this letter will also be published on GOV.UK.

Yours sincerely



Katherine Cowell
Regional Director for North East Regions Group

CC: Ofsted, Lynn McNally, Cath McEvoy-Carr