



Department
for Education

Regional Director's Office
Regions Group
East Midlands
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John Hunter
Chair of Directors
Diocese of Southwell and Nottingham Multi-Academy Trust
Jubilee House
Westgate
Southwell
NG25 0JH

By email only to: [REDACTED]

31 March 2026

Dear Mr Hunter

Termination Warning Notice to the Members and Directors of the Diocese of Southwell and Nottingham Multi-Academy Trust in respect of St Swithun's Church of England Primary Academy

In accordance with clauses 5.F to 5H of the funding agreement for St Swithun's Church of England Primary 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 10 March 2026 confirming that St Swithun's Church of England Primary Academy 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 18 March 2026, highlighted the following areas as requiring improvements:

- Leaders should raise expectations in reading, writing and mathematics so that gaps in pupils' basic skills narrow quickly, allowing them to achieve and secure the knowledge they need to be well prepared for the next stage of their education.
- Leaders should check that staff apply strategies to support vulnerable pupils consistently, so that those with additional needs and specific vulnerabilities receive a high quality of support in all classes.

- Leaders should ensure that pupils benefit from a consistent quality of teaching that helps them to learn and remember the intended curriculum.
- Leaders should ensure that behaviour expectations are applied with consistency so that routines are followed and learning is not disrupted.
- Leaders should ensure that teaching enables pupils to recall content from the personal development programme, including around protected characteristics and fundamental British values, to help prepare pupils for life in modern Britain.
- Leaders should strengthen early years teaching so that children, including those with low starting points, receive appropriate support while also benefiting from greater challenge and clear progression from Nursery into the Reception Year.
- Leaders, including those with responsibility for governance, should continue to act with speed and rigour to address school improvement priorities so that pupils benefit from higher standards throughout the school.

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 the trust wish to make in response to this Termination Warning Notice.

Please provide me with any representations the trust wish to make by emailing RG.EM@Education.gov.uk by **1 May 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 diocese, the trust CEO and Nottinghamshire County Council.

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

Yours sincerely



Nigel Minns
Regional Director
Regions Group, East Midlands

CC:

Mike Sheridan, Ofsted Regional Director, East of England and East Midlands

Nigel Frith, Diocese Director of Education, Diocese of Southwell and Nottingham

Chris Moodie, CEO of the Diocese of Southwell and Nottingham Multi-Academy Trust

Anne Coyle, Director of Children's Services at Nottinghamshire County Council