



Department
for Education

Regional Director's Office
Eastbrook
Shaftesbury Road
Cambridge
CB2 8DR
RG.EOE@education.gov.uk

The Members and Trustees of The Active Learning Trust

Active Learning Trust
C/O Neale-Wade Academy,
Wimblington Road,
March, PE15 9PX

By email only to [REDACTED]

11 May 2026

Dear Ms Heald,

Termination Warning Notice to the Members and Trustees of The Active Learning Trust (“the Trust”) in respect of Neale-Wade Academy (“the Academy”)

In accordance with sections 2A and 2D of the Academies Act 2010¹ any funding agreement of an academy may be terminated by the Secretary of State where special measures are required to be taken in relation to the academy or the academy requires significant improvement and the Chief Inspector of Ofsted has given notice of that under section 13(3)(a) of the Education Act 2005.

I received an Ofsted notification dated 13 March 2026 confirming that the 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 21 April 2026 highlights the following areas for improvement.

- Leaders, including those with responsibility for governance, should ensure that pupils’ achievement in national tests and assessments improves, so that all groups of pupils are well prepared for their next stage in education or training.
- Leaders should continue to strengthen teachers’ pedagogical knowledge through targeted professional development, so that all pupils, including those with high prior attainment, are appropriately challenged and achieve the academic standards of which they are capable.

- Leaders should ensure that pupils with vulnerabilities receive high quality and timely support in lessons, ensuring that the adaptations that staff make are appropriate and effective, and allow these pupils to go on to achieve well.
- Leaders should ensure that staff use assessment effectively, to understand the misconceptions that pupils have, and to allow them to adapt future learning to address the gaps identified in pupils' knowledge.
- Leaders should improve the support in place to develop pupils' foundational knowledge in reading and writing, to strengthen their readiness for the next stages of education and/or training.

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 Academy's funding agreement in order to transfer the Academy to an alternative academy trust.

In making the decision on whether to terminate the Academy's funding agreement I will consider any written representations the Trust wish to make in response to this Termination Warning Notice. In addition to the Trust's representations, other relevant factors such as attainment and the Academy's previous Ofsted judgements of Requires Improvement (2023) and Requires Improvement (2021) will be taken into consideration.

Please provide me with any representations the Trust wish to make by 5 June 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 Academy's workforce.

I am copying this letter to Ofsted, the Trust's CEO, and Cambridgeshire County Council. A copy of this letter will also be published on GOV.UK.

Yours sincerely,



Jonathan Duff

Regional Director

East of England, Regions Group

CC: Ofsted, Lynsey Holzer CEO The Active Learning Trust, Alison Cramer Assistant Director for Education Cambridgeshire County Council

ⁱ Inserted by section 14 of the Education and Adoption Act 2016