**Department for Education**
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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]

Monday 12 October 2026

Dear Mr Hughes,

**Termination Warning Notice to the Members and Trustees of the Active Learning Trust ("the Trust") in respect of Highfield Littleport Academy ("the Academy")**

In accordance with clauses 5.F to 5H of the funding agreement for the Academy, the Secretary of State may terminate the funding agreement if the Chief Inspector gives notice to the 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 8 September 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 17 September 2026 highlights the following areas for improvement:

- Leaders must define clear curriculum pathways and align these with assessment so that staff plan coherent learning for pupils.

- Leaders must guide staff to review which approaches reduce learning barriers for pupils, adjusting any that do not show clear, measurable impact on what pupils achieve.

- Leaders must ensure that teaching responds to pupils' needs so that pupils can access learning, engage purposefully and build knowledge securely.

- Leaders must help staff select and teach suitable communication approaches for pupils who need them, ensuring regular chances to practise communicating with increasing independence.

- Leaders must ensure that staff identify and address gaps in pupils' foundational knowledge so that all pupils achieve well, including those capable of gaining qualifications that broaden future opportunities.

- Leaders should establish suitable strategies to reduce persistent absenteeism among disadvantaged pupils, communicating expectations clearly and monitoring progress closely to secure sustained improvement in attendance.

- Leaders should ensure that staff use suitable strategies for calm, effective responses to unsettled behaviour, enabling pupils to remain settled and focused on learning.

- Leaders should extend the personal development programme, so that pupils encounter broader opportunities that support their growth, interests and emerging talents.

- Leaders should use their insights to shape timely, targeted professional learning that tackles emerging weaknesses early.

- Trustees should ensure that the information they receive about pupils' achievement is sufficiently clear and specific to enable them to hold leaders to account for the school's educational performance.

As set out in Support and intervention in schools, there is a presumption that academies that require significant improvement will receive Regional Improvement for Standards and Excellence (RISE) intervention, delivering a bespoke package of challenge and support to target areas of weakness identified in Ofsted report cards, instead of moving directly to structural change. This presumption may be set aside in exceptional circumstances, in which case I will consider terminating the Academy's funding agreement in order to transfer the Academy to an alternative academy trust.

In making the decision on whether to enter the Academy into RISE or terminate the Academy's 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 Monday 9 November 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,

[redacted]

**Jonathan Duff**
Regional Director
East of England, Regions Group

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