



Department
for Education

Regional Schools Commissioner, North
Department for Education
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06 April 2017

The Members and Directors of The Education Village Academy Trust
The Education Village
Salters Lane South
Darlington
DL1 2AN

Dear Mr O'Neill,

Minded to Terminate Letter to the Members and Directors of the Education Village Academy Trust in respect of Beaumont Hill Academy

In accordance with section 2A of the Academies Act 2010ⁱ any funding agreement of an academy may be terminated by the Secretary of State where special measures are required to be taken by 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.

Following the Ofsted inspection of Beaumont Hill Academy on the 17 and 18 January 2017, I received an Ofsted notification dated 10 March 2017 confirming that Beaumont Hill Academy was judged to be inadequate and requires special measures. Of serious concern are Ofsted's conclusions that:

- checks on staff have not met statutory requirements, placing pupils at an unacceptable level of risk
- effective checks on whether pupils' behaviour is managed safely are not in place and that oversight of the use of physical restraint is not robust enough
- the quality of teaching and the progress pupils make is too variable
- too many pupils have high levels of absence, especially disadvantaged pupils.

I received documentation from the Education Village Academy Trust on 13 March 2017 outlining your post-Ofsted action plan and governance structures for the academy. The action plan identifies objectives to move the academy from an Ofsted judgement of inadequate towards a judgement of good, but does not go far enough to identify specific measurable milestones to assess if the academy is on track.

My Education Adviser, Carol McDermott and Deputy Director, Jane Wilson, visited Beaumont Hill Academy on 20 March 2017. Their report identified that the pace of change and improvement within the academy needs to accelerate. The report also raises concerns that the academy does not have an accurate self-evaluation, which is vital in order to provide robust improvement planning processes and to improve the quality of teaching and

learning. As a result of this information, I am concerned that the trust has not taken rapid action to address the concerns raised in the Ofsted inspection.

As the Regional Schools Commissioner, acting on behalf of the Secretary of State, I need to be satisfied that this academy can achieve rapid and sustained improvement, if I am not satisfied this can be achieved, I will consider issuing a Termination Warning Notice.

The actions that we require, the Education Village Academy Trust to take to remedy the matter are to:

1. Urgently conduct an independent review of safeguarding and provide evidence that this has been implemented within the academy.
2. Provide an improvement plan with measurable milestones to urgently address the weaknesses in education provision and pupil attendance as set out in the Ofsted report.
3. Provide robust evidence that the improvement plan is being implemented and monitored effectively.
4. Review and improve the rigour of the academy's quality assurance systems and processes relating to teaching and learning.
5. Conduct an external review of governance and the school's use of pupil premium funding to assess how these aspects of leadership and management may be improved.

Please respond to me within fifteen working days of the date of this letter, outlining the actions that you will be taking to remedy the matters identified above.

I am copying this letter to the National Schools Commissioner.

Yours sincerely



Jan Renou
Regional Schools Commissioner for North

CC: Sir David Carter National Schools Commissioner

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