



Department
for Education

Regional Schools Commissioner's Office
South East and South London

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Mr Michael Costello
Chair of Trustees
The Williamson Trust
c/o Sir Joseph Williamson's Mathematical School
Maidstone Road
Rochester
ME1 3EL

21 April 2017

Dear Mr Costello,

Pre-Termination Warning Notice Letter to the trustees of The Williamson Trust in relation to Elaine Primary Academy

The purpose of this pre-Termination Warning Notice letter is to inform the trustees of The Williamson Trust ("the Company") that the Secretary of State considers that the standards of performance of pupils at Elaine Primary Academy ("the academy") are unacceptably low. Unless the matters on which our conclusions are based are remedied to the Secretary of State's satisfaction, she will issue a Termination Warning Notice.

The Secretary of State is able to issue a Termination Warning Notice to the Company further to clause 5.2 of the academy's Supplemental Funding Agreement (as amended by the deed of variation dated 19 August 2013 - "the SFA"). If the Secretary of State is not satisfied that the Company will rectify the faults identified in the Termination Warning Notice or the Company has not responded to that Notice or not carried out specified remedial measures within a reasonable specified period of time, she will be entitled to terminate the SFA by notice in writing (in accordance with clause 5.4 or 5.5).

The matters on which our conclusions are based are that:

The standards of performance of pupils at the academy are unacceptably low

1. Performance has been consistently poor over several years. In 2015, the proportion of pupils achieving Level 4 or above in reading, writing and maths fell to 51% (29 percentage points (ppts) below national average) and the proportion making expected progress in mathematics fell by 10 ppts to just 69% (21 ppts below national average).
2. In 2016, following an inspection on 15-16 June, Ofsted judged that the academy continued to require improvement in its overall effectiveness and in outcomes for pupils in particular.
3. Not enough pupils make or exceed expected levels of progress or attain the expected standard in reading, writing and maths at KS2.

- a. In 2016, the percentage of **pupils meeting the expected standard in reading, writing and maths** was 36% - that is 13ppts below the local authority average and 17ppts below the national average. This figure is worse for disadvantaged pupils, only 28% of whom met the expected standard, 11ppts below the national average for that group.
 - b. 2016 KS2 progress in **mathematics** was below national average for the middle prior attainment group and disadvantaged pupils, and below the national average overall.
 - c. 2016 KS2 progress in **reading** was well below national average and in the lowest 10% nationally for the high prior attainment group of pupils.
 - d. 2016 KS2 progress in **writing** for pupils in the high prior attainment group was below national average.
4. I sent a Letter of Concern relating to Elaine Primary Academy to the trust in December 2015 and a further Letter of Concern about Elaine, Stoke Community School and Allhallows Primary Academy in January 2016. Although a number of meetings and academy visits over this period have shown the Company has introduced changes, these efforts have not yet led to evidence of sufficiently improved outcomes. The local authority have also recently expressed concerns to me about the academy.

If these matters are not remedied to the Secretary of State's satisfaction, she will consider issuing a Termination Warning Notice (in accordance with clause 5.3 of the SFA). As explained above, if the Company failed to comply with that Termination Warning Notice within a reasonable period of time, she would be entitled to terminate the SFA (in accordance with clause 5.4 or 5.5) if she remained satisfied that it was appropriate to do so.

Please respond to me within fifteen working days from the date of this letter, outlining the actions that you will be taking to remedy the matters identified above, how such actions will be implemented, how their effectiveness will be measured and the timescales involved.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'D. Herrington', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Dominic Herrington
Regional Schools Commissioner
South East and South London