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for Education

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The Proprietor
Acorn Park School
Andrews Furlong
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Norfolk NR16 2HU

E-mail
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Ref no: 926/6152

Date: 24 September 2020

Dear Proprietor

Acorn Park School

We wrote to you on 03 June 2020 to explain that we intended to issue a notice under section 114(5) of the Education and Skills Act 2008 but were not going to at that point. As we explained, we did not issue the notice at that point because we believed that the need for regulatory or enforcement action in relation to your school was less pressing while only a small number of children were present in the school under the pandemic lockdown arrangements.

We have asked all schools to encourage all pupils to return full-time from the start of the autumn term. In this context, we now believe it is necessary to progress regulatory action

I refer to the inspection by the Office for Standards in Education, Children's Services and Skills (Ofsted) that was carried out at the above school under section 109 of the Education and Skills Act 2008 on 25 to 27 February 2020. You will see from the enclosed report that Ofsted noted serious regulatory failings.

Taking account of the report the Secretary of State is satisfied, pursuant to section 114(1) of the Education and Skills Act 2008, that any one or more of the independent school standards¹ is or are not being met in relation to the school.

In these circumstances I enclose a Notice, served by the Secretary of State for Education under section 114(5) of the 2008 Act, requiring an Action Plan which details the steps that will be taken to meet all of the standards set out in the Annex to the Notice and the time by which each step will be taken, to be submitted by 24 October 2020.

¹ [The Education \(Independent School Standards\) Regulations 2014 \(SI 2014/3283\)](#)

The action plan should also include an update the matters set out in our earlier letter of that set out security issues your latest actions regarding the security matt

You are reminded that the independent school standards require that a copy of the inspection report is sent to parents and a copy is published on the school's website or, where no such website exists, is provided to parents on request. This will be checked at the next inspection.

The Action Plan must contain reasonable timescales for implementation within which the necessary action will be taken and it is expected that the implementation dates given in the Action Plan should not extend beyond 24 December 2020. A template and supporting advice is enclosed which may help you in drawing up a satisfactory Action Plan.

The deadline by which the Action Plan must be received by me is 24 October 2020. If this date is not met, the Secretary of State may remove the school from the Register of Independent Schools or may impose a requirement restricting the school's operations (from a date following the period during which you may appeal).

I must warn you that the Secretary of State may reject an Action Plan, and in these circumstances the Secretary of State may remove the school from the Register of Independent Schools or may impose a requirement restricting the school's operations (from a date following the appeal period).

If an Action Plan is accepted, Ofsted may be asked to visit the school again to check that the school has fully implemented the plan and that it is fully meeting the independent school standards.

You may wish to note that this letter, the enclosed Notice and Annex will be published shortly on the Gov.uk website.

Yours faithfully


Independent Education and Boarding Team

SECTION 114(5) OF THE EDUCATION AND SKILLS ACT 2008

NOTICE BY THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR EDUCATION

**IN RELATION TO
Andrews Furlong, Mill Road, Banham, Norwich, Norfolk, NR16 2HU
("the School")**

WHEREAS

The Secretary of State for Education, being the keeper of the register of independent schools in England² –

- (i) has taken into account a report in respect of an inspection of the School by Her Majesty's Chief Inspector of Education, Children's Services and Skills which was conducted on 25 to 27 February 2020; and
- (ii) is satisfied that the independent school standards, as prescribed in the Education (Independent School Standards) Regulations 2014, specified in the Annex to this Notice are not being met in relation to the School.

NOW THEREFORE

In exercise of the power conferred upon him by section 114(5) of the Education and Skills Act 2008, the Secretary of State serves the following Notice on the proprietor of the School:

- (1) the independent school standards set out in the Annex to this Notice are not being met in relation to the School; and
- (2) the proprietor of the School is required to submit an action plan³ to the Secretary of State specifying the steps that will be taken to meet the standards, and the time by which each step will be taken, on or before 24 October 2020.


Independent Education and Boarding Team

Date: 24 September 2020

² The Secretary of State is required to keep a register of independent educational institutions in England under section 95(1) of the Education and Skills Act 2008. "Independent educational institution" is defined in section 92(1) of that Act as an independent school and an independent provider of part-time education. Independent providers of part-time education are not currently regulated so effectively the requirement under section 95(1) is for the Secretary of State to keep a register of independent schools.

³ An action plan is defined in section 114(4) of the Education and Skills Act 2008.

ANNEX TO NOTICE

**Andrews Furlong, Mill Road, Banham, Norwich, Norfolk, NR16 2HU
("the school")**

The following independent school standards, as prescribed in the Schedule to the Education (Independent School Standards) Regulations 2014, are not being met in relation to the school:

PART 1: Quality of education provided

1. The standards about the quality of education provided at the school are those contained in this Part.

2.(1) The standard in this paragraph is met if—

(a) the proprietor ensures that a written policy on the curriculum, supported by appropriate plans and schemes of work, which provides for the matters specified in sub-paragraph (2) is drawn up and implemented effectively; and

(b) the written policy, plans and schemes of work—

(i) take into account the ages, aptitudes and needs of all pupils, including those pupils with an EHC plan.

3. The standard in this paragraph is met if the proprietor ensures that the teaching at the school—

(a) enables pupils to acquire new knowledge and make good progress according to their ability so that they increase their understanding and develop their skills in the subjects taught;

(c) involves well planned lessons and effective teaching methods, activities and management of class time;

(d) shows a good understanding of the aptitudes, needs and prior attainments of the pupils, and ensures that these are taken into account in the planning of lessons;

(e) demonstrates good knowledge and understanding of the subject matter being taught;

(g) demonstrates that a framework is in place to assess pupils' work regularly and thoroughly and use information from that assessment to plan teaching so that pupils can progress; and

(h) utilises effective strategies for managing behaviour and encouraging pupils to act responsibly.

PART 3: Welfare, health and safety of pupils

6. The standards about the welfare, health and safety of pupils at the school are those contained in this Part.

9. The standard in this paragraph is met if the proprietor promotes good behaviour amongst pupils by ensuring that—

(b) the policy is implemented effectively.

PART 8: Quality of leadership in and management of schools

34. (1) The standard about the quality of leadership and management is met if the proprietor ensures that persons with leadership and management responsibilities at the school—

(a) demonstrate good skills and knowledge appropriate to their role so that the independent school standards are met consistently; and

(b) fulfil their responsibilities effectively so that the independent school standards are met consistently.