



Department  
for Education

Department for Education  
Bishopsgate House  
Feethams  
Darlington  
DL1 5QE

The Proprietor  
Rudolf Steiner School  
Kings Langley  
Langley Hill, Kings Langley  
Hertfordshire WD4 9HG

Tel: 01325 340405  
[www.gov.uk/dfe](http://www.gov.uk/dfe)  
Email enquiry form:  
[www.education.gov.uk/contactus/dfe](http://www.education.gov.uk/contactus/dfe)  
Date: 9 March 2017

Dear Proprietor

## **RUDOLF STEINER SCHOOL**

I refer to the inspections carried out by Her Majesty's Chief Inspector of Education, Children's Services and Skills ("the Chief Inspector") on 2 November and 13-16 December 2016 at the above school ('the School') under s.109 of the Education and Skills Act 2008 ('the Act'). You will see from the enclosed reports, which have been published, that both the inspections found serious regulatory failings relating to the Independent School Standards ("ISS")<sup>1</sup>.

These inspections followed one conducted by the School Inspection Service ("SIS") on 29-30 June 2016 which found that all standards checked at that time, were met. However, the SIS inspection report recommended that progress at the School in implementing changes to meet safeguarding and leadership related standards should be checked again, to ensure that the improvements were being sustained. Consequently, the Ofsted inspection held on 2 November was commissioned, and this found that a number of the ISS were not met. In the light of this, the full inspection held on 13-16 December was commissioned, and further unmet ISS were found, as detailed in the relevant report, although progress had been made in some respects.

The Secretary of State is of the view that there are continued failings to meet the ISS which are sufficiently serious to warrant enforcement action and has therefore decided to impose a 'relevant restriction' in relation to the School. The effect of the specific restriction which the Secretary of State has decided upon will be, when it takes effect, that no new students may be admitted to the School.

---

<sup>1</sup> SI 2014/3283

---

## **Decision to impose relevant restriction**

Taking account of the Ofsted reports relating to the 2 November and 13-16 December inspections, the Secretary of State is satisfied, for the purposes of section 115(1) of the Act, that a number of the ISS are not being met in relation to the School. In addition, the action plan submitted in relation to the School, in response to the requirement from the Secretary of State to produce one dated 12 May 2016, was rejected on 26 May 2016. This means that one of the conditions referred to in section 115(3) of the Act is met in relation to the School (specifically the condition contained in section 115(4)(a) and (b)(ii) of the Act) is satisfied) and that therefore, the Secretary of State is authorised to take enforcement action under section 116 of the Act in relation to the School.

Having considered whether and what sort of enforcement action under section 116 of the Act is appropriate, the Secretary of State has decided to impose the following relevant restriction in relation to the School (which is contained in section 117(1)(c) of the Act):

To cease to admit any new students to the School

In the event that you do not appeal within the required period against this decision to impose a relevant restriction, the restriction will become effective once the period of 28 days has expired beginning with the date on which the attached notice is served on you. Our normal assumption is to treat the notice as having been served on you after the end of two working days following the date of this letter. This means the restriction would become effective on 10 April 2017, which is 28 days after 13 March.

The annex to the attached notice sets out the regulatory failings which have led to the decision to impose this relevant restriction.

As the proprietor of the School, you may apply to the Secretary of State to have the relevant restriction revoked or varied under section 118(4) of the Act. Such an application would be approved only if the Secretary of State was satisfied that it would be appropriate to do so because of any change in circumstances. In particular, if all the ISS were being met in relation to the School at the time of such an application, it is likely that the Secretary of State would vary or revoke the restriction. There is no time limit on when a proprietor may make an application to the Secretary of State under section 118(4) of the Act.

As the proprietor, you also have the right under section 125(1)(c) of the Act to appeal against this decision to impose a relevant restriction to the First-Tier Tribunal. Any appeal must be made, in writing, within 28 days of the date on which the attached notice is served on you. If you do appeal within the required time limit, then the relevant restriction does not take effect until such time as the appeal is determined, withdrawn or otherwise disposed of. The relevant contact details are: HM Courts and tribunal Service, 1<sup>st</sup> Floor, Darlington Magistrate's Court, Parkgate, Darlington DL1 1RU. Telephone 01325 289350.

It is an offence for a proprietor to fail to comply with a relevant restriction which has taken effect, with penalties of up to six months' imprisonment and/or a substantial fine (see section 118(2) of the Act).

Continued failure to comply with the ISS may also result in the Secretary of State considering that it is appropriate to remove the school from the register of independent schools.

A copy of this letter and the documents attached to it are being sent to your email address.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'P. Swift', written in a cursive style.

PETER SWIFT  
DEPUTY DIRECTOR, INDEPENDENT EDUCATION DIVISION