



# ACADEMIES SPECIAL EDITION Winter 2010 News

The largest teachers' union  
[www.teachers.org.uk](http://www.teachers.org.uk)

## Say "no" to academy status

**NUT school groups up and down the country have been passing resolutions against conversion to academy status.**

Members are standing up against the threat to teachers' pay and conditions and to the comprehensive state education system.

### Pay and conditions

Moving to academy status can pose a massive threat to pay and conditions. Even if no changes are imposed at the time a school becomes an academy, existing pay and conditions may come under attack later.

In many academies a significant worsening of conditions has already been imposed on new staff, including:

- Longer contractual working hours
- Absence of any limits in working time
- Changes to sickness and maternity arrangements
- Pay arrangements that benefit a small number of senior staff, not all employees

### Funding

There is a huge risk that the additional funding academies currently receive will not cover the extra costs of obtaining services that were provided by local authorities.

The Government admits that its £25,000 grant to schools will not cover all the start-up costs. Some estimates show schools having to pay out up to £100,000 for these costs.

### Losing local authority support

Academies undermine the key strategic role of the local authority. As one head teacher puts it:

"When I had a fire and I needed instant support, where did I go? To my local authority ... The idea that I, and every other head in the country, could get the support I got from the local authority from the Young People's Learning Agency in Westminster is laughable."

### What you can do

- Get colleagues together to discuss and pass the NUT resolution
- Inform your head and governing body of members' position regarding academies
- Inform your division/association secretary when you have passed the resolution

**ACT NOW: Go to [www.teachers.org.uk/academies](http://www.teachers.org.uk/academies) for more information**

Christine Blower, General Secretary of the National Union of Teachers, said:

***"The more school groups that pass the resolution, the stronger the bulwark against the Government's plans will be. Together we can make a difference!"***

Our aim – one union for all teachers

**Join the NUT** See your school representative  
[www.teachers.org.uk](http://www.teachers.org.uk)

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