



The Union which supports all its members, wherever they teach.

Oppose Academies

**IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOR
PARENTS ABOUT ACADEMIES**

**For A Good Local School For
Every Child And Every Community**

Our aim: one union for all teachers

WHAT IS AN ACADEMY?

- An Academy is an independent school within the state sector. It is not maintained by the local authority.
- It has to comply with the Independent School Standards and its Funding Agreement (which both the Secretary of State and the Academy Trust must sign).
- The 2010 Academies Act allows all schools to apply for Academy status, including all primary and special schools.
- When a school becomes an Academy the Academy Trust (or its sponsor) controls all aspects of the school including admissions, curriculum and length of school day.

THE BEST EDUCATION FOR YOUR CHILD?

- There is no independent evidence that Academies offer pupils a better education than other local schools. Some Academies do well, others do less well, just as is the case with community schools.
- Academies are not democratically accountable to their local community.
- Whilst “outstanding” schools are no longer required to have an external sponsor other schools, particularly schools subject to an “intervention order”, may well be required to do so. Many sponsors are unsuitable and have no educational experience or expertise.
- Academies are only obliged to have two parent governors. In community schools at least one third of governors must be parent governors.
- Academies often use unfair admissions procedures to change their school population.
- Academies can choose ten per cent of their pupils by “aptitude”.
- Permanent exclusion rates in Academies are almost three times higher than those in schools as a whole and almost double the rate for local authority maintained secondaries.

WHAT TO DO IF AN ACADEMY IS PLANNED IN YOUR AREA

- Don't assume that an Academy is inevitable – successful campaigns have been – and are being – fought against Academies.
- Talk to the parent governors of your school about your concerns and talk to other parents.
- Ask the Governing Body to pass the NUT's model resolution (or a similar resolution) opposing Academy status. This is available at <http://www.teachers.org.uk/files/Academies-model-resolution-7130.pdf>
- Write to your MP to voice your concerns about the planned Academy.
- If Academy status is proposed ensure the governors hold a full and meaningful consultation and make your views known.
- The NUT website provides advice and guidance on campaigning against Academies.
- Look also at the anti academies alliance website which includes campaign briefings, resources and links to other local campaigns: www.antiacademies.org.uk

Three reasons to oppose Academies

- There is no independent evidence that Academies offer pupils a better education than other local schools. Exam achievement has stalled or even regressed at some Academies.
- Academies are not democratically accountable to their local communities. They do not have to listen to parents or the public.
- Academies often use unfair admissions procedures to change their school population.