

# How to Join



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

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0845 300 1669

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[www.teachers.org.uk](http://www.teachers.org.uk)

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Fill in an application form.

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Our aim: one union for all teachers

# Oppose Academies

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

## 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.

## HOW ARE COMMUNITY SCHOOLS AND ACADEMIES DIFFERENT?

In community schools:

- governing bodies are accountable to their local communities.
- local authorities are the employer.

Academies:

- may not receive the benefits of local authority support.
- are not democratically accountable to their local authority.
- have the majority of their governing bodies appointed by an external sponsor or Academy Trust. Academies are only obliged to have two parent governors. In community schools at least one third of governors must be parent governors.
- Academies can set their own curriculum and length of the school day.
- can choose ten per cent of their pupils by "aptitude".
- can set their own pay, conditions and working time arrangements for newly appointed teachers joining the Academy.

## WHAT IS THE NUT'S VIEW ON ACADEMY SCHOOLS?

- Once a school becomes an Academy it is outside of local democratic control forever.
- 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.
- There is no independent evidence that Academies offer pupils a better education than other local schools.
- Academies often use unfair admissions procedures to change their school population.
- Removing Academy funding from local authorities could damage the well being and education of children with Special Educational Needs (SEN).
- Academies can undermine the pay and conditions of their staff.

## ACTING TO PREVENT ACADEMIES

- Don't assume that an Academy is inevitable – successful campaigns have been – and are being – fought against Academies.
- Don't wait until Academy status is proposed, If you are a teacher or NUT union rep, call a meeting of NUT members in your school and ask them to pass the NUT model resolution (or a similar one) opposing Academy status. This is available at [www.teachers.org.uk/files/Academies-model-resolution-7130.pdf](http://www.teachers.org.uk/files/Academies-model-resolution-7130.pdf)
- Ask the school governors to pass a similar resolution.
- Link up with other unions within the school.
- Seek the support of parents and the wider community.
- Find out when the consultation on the Academy is taking place 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](http://www.antiacademies.org.uk)