



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

Oppose Academies

**IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOR
COUNCILLORS ABOUT ACADEMIES**

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

Our aim: one union for all teachers

WHAT IS AN ACADEMY?

Academies:

- are independent schools within the state sector. They are not maintained by the local authority.
- are run by external sponsors such as businesses, charities and religious organisations.

THE BEST EDUCATION FOR CHILDREN?

- 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.
- Many sponsors are unsuitable and have no educational experience or expertise. Sponsors control all aspects of the school including admissions, curriculum and length of school day.
- Academies have the majority of their governing bodies appointed by an external sponsor. Academies are only obliged to have one parent governor. In community schools at least one third of governors must be parent governors. Academies are not required to have a teacher governor, staff governor or community representative.
- Academies often use unfair admissions procedures to change their school population.
- Government figures show that Academies are twice as likely to permanently exclude pupils who are then transferred to other schools.

HOW WILL ACADEMIES AFFECT THE ROLE OF COUNCILLORS?

- Academies are not democratically accountable to their local authority.
- Local councillors have no responsibility for Academies in their areas, making it difficult for them to support parents or to be able to offer advice on educational issues.

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 other councillors about your concerns and agree to lobby within the council for options other than Academies. In Leicester the Support Our Schools Campaign successfully fought against an Academy proposal by promoting an alternative collaborative approach where expertise and good practice could be shared across the Local Authority.
- The NUT has produced a Campaigners Handbook providing advice and guidance on campaigning against Academies. It is available on the NUT website www.teachers.org.uk
- Look at the Anti Academies website which includes campaign briefings and resources including a councillors briefing www.antiacademies.org.uk
- Find out when the consultation on the Academy is taking place and make your views known.
- Contact your local branch of the Campaign for State Education (CASE). The website is located at www.casenet.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.
- Once a school becomes an Academy it is outside of local democratic control forever.
- Local councillors have no responsibility for Academies in their areas, making it difficult for them to support parents or to be able to offer advice on educational issues.