



NUT

SPECIAL EDITION

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News

The largest teachers' union
www.teachers.org.uk

Together against Academies

The Secretary of State for Education, Michael Gove, has invited all head teachers in schools in England to consider registering an interest for their schools to become academies.

All of the teacher unions, the NUT, ATL and NASUWT are opposed to these proposals and we have written to chairs of governing bodies to explain why.

Immediate threat

For schools currently rated 'outstanding' by Ofsted, the Government is suggesting that they could become academies by September 2010.

How will the process of becoming an academy work?

The process put forward by Government will be alarmingly simple – a head in an outstanding school registers an interest and a governing body simply passes a resolution. You need to do everything you can to let your governing body know that your school is not in favour.

What about consultation?

Outrageously, the Government is saying that there is no requirement on the head or governors to consult with parents, staff, pupils, the local authority or other local schools before the governing body passes a resolution. We think there should be full consultation.

What will happen to my pay and conditions if my school becomes an academy?

In the first instance your pay and conditions would remain the same because of the protection of TUPE Regulations. However, new employees in an academy can be employed on different terms and many academies have subsequently made changes for existing staff.

What sort of changes to pay and conditions might be proposed?

All sorts of changes can be proposed for example:

- In some existing academies there is Saturday working, others have longer school days and longer school years
- Some academies pay less maternity pay than their neighbouring schools.

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

"We must do all we can to oppose the threatened huge expansion of the academy programme. Please go to www.teachers.org.uk/academies and email your MP to ask them to sign the EDM we have had tabled in Parliament, which highlights the problems with academy expansion."

Our aim – one union for all teachers

Join the NUT

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See your school representative

Just ring to join now

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Records & subscriptions helpline

0845 300 1669
or **020 7380 6369**

0845 300 1666