



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

Oppose Trust School Status

**IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOR
PARENTS ABOUT TRUST SCHOOLS**

Our aim: one union for all teachers

WHAT IS A TRUST SCHOOL?

A Trust school is:

- A maintained school with a charitable foundation involving 'external partners' such as businesses and charities;
- Funded by the local authority; and
- The direct employer of staff and owner of school land, buildings and other assets.

HOW ARE TRUST SCHOOLS DIFFERENT TO COMMUNITY SCHOOLS?

In Trust schools:

- The school becomes a foundation school with a charitable foundation consisting of businesses, charitable groups or other organisations;
- Ownership of the school buildings, land, and facilities transfers to the Trust and out of the hands of the community;
- The Trust may appoint the majority of the governors including parent governors. There is no guarantee that parents will be democratically represented;
- Trusts act as their own admissions authorities (but must follow the national Code of Practice for admissions);
- Trusts can set their own holiday dates independent of agreed local authority arrangements; and
- Trusts can change pay, pensions and conditions of service arrangements for support staff such as teaching assistants and change locally agreed conditions of service for teachers.

THE BEST EDUCATION FOR CHILDREN?

Trust schools:

- do not offer a better education than any other category of school;
- can never become community schools again – even where a majority of parents want this to happen;
- have extra administrative burdens;
- are undemocratic - schools serve their community best when they are run by the elected and accountable local authority;
- give control of schools to private companies and other organisations;
- result in the transfer of public assets such as school buildings and land into the hands of unaccountable Trusts, including private companies;
- will lead to a further fragmentation of the education service; and
- may lead to a increase in covert selection because each Trust has its own admissions policy.

WHAT TO DO IF A TRUST IS PLANNED IN YOUR AREA

- Trusts are not inevitable: successful campaigns have been fought against Trusts;
- Ask your parent governors to organise a ballot of parents so everyone can express their view;
- Take part in the consultation and make your views known. The consultation period may be as little as six weeks;
- Start a parents' group to oppose Trust status. Start a petition and contact your local newspaper to tell them why you oppose plans for your school to become a Trust;
- Link up with the teachers' NUT rep in your school and the union reps for the support staff such as UNISON;
- Write to the local media, and write to and meet with local councillors and your MP to voice your concerns;
- The NUT has advice and guidance on campaigning against Trust schools on its website www.teachers.org.uk;
- Contact your local branch of the Campaign for State Education (CASE) and seek their support. The CASE website is at www.casenet.org; and
- The Anti Academies Alliance website has information on Trust schools at www.antiacademies.org.uk and may also be able to offer support locally.

IN SHORT

- Trust school status gives control of the school to private companies and other outside organisations;
- Trusts schools lack democratic accountability. The Trust can appoint the majority of the governing body – even the parent governors; and
- Once a school becomes a Trust it cannot return to being a community school.