



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

Oppose Academies

**IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOR
GOVERNORS 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 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.
- Academies often use unfair admissions procedures to change their school population.
- Academies select 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.
- Academies are not democratically accountable to their local authority or 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.

HOW WILL ACADEMIES AFFECT THE ROLE OF GOVERNORS?

- Once a school becomes an Academy the elected members of the existing governing body lose all control and the external sponsors or Academy Trust are allowed to appoint the majority of governors.
- Academies are only obliged to have two parent governors. They are not required to have a teacher governor or staff governor.

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 others on the board of governors about your concerns and suggest a formal vote to oppose the proposal. The NUT has a model resolution for governing bodies opposing Academy status. This is available at www.teachers.org.uk/files/Academies-model-resolution-7130.pdf
- Talk to parents about your concerns and encourage them to campaign against the Academy
- Write to your MP to voice your concerns about the planned Academy.
- Insist that the school holds a full and meaningful consultation with all stakeholders and that arguments Academy status are given equal weight when sending out literature or organising meetings.
- The NUT website provides advice and guidance on campaigning against Academies.
- Contact your local branch of the Campaign for State Education (CASE). The website is located at www.casenet.org.uk
- 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

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