



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

Oppose Academies

**IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOR
TEACHERS ABOUT ACADEMIES**

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

How to Join

By phone:

0845 300 1669

0207 380 6369

Online:

www.teachers.org.uk

By post:

Fill in an application form.

Ask your NUT school representative for a copy.

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. Some Academies do well, others do less well, just as is the case with community schools.
- 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.
- 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.

A THREAT TO THE TEACHING PROFESSION?

- Academies can set their own pay, conditions, and working time arrangements for newly appointed teachers joining the Academy.
- Some Academies have a two-tier workforce because they operate two different contracts, one for transferees and one for new staff.
- In some Academies teachers are being expected to work an extended day and for more hours in each academic year.
- Teachers transferring to an Academy on their existing conditions are not protected against the loss of employment in the event of a future reorganisation.
- Academies are only obliged to have two parent governors. They are not required to have a teacher governor or a staff governor.
- 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.

WHAT TO DO IF AN ACADEMY IS PLANNED

- Don't assume that an Academy is inevitable – successful campaigns have been – and are being – fought against Academies.
- Discuss and pass the NUT model resolution (www.teachers.org.uk/files/Academies-model-resolution-7130.pdf): inform your head and governing body of members' position regarding Academies; inform your division/association secretary when you have passed the resolution.
- If your governors do propose a consultation on Academy status, get in touch with your NUT division urgently to discuss how to try to influence the governors.
- If your school does become an Academy, seek NUT support and advice on how best to try to protect your pay and conditions.