



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

# Oppose Trust School Status

**IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOR  
GOVERNORS 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.

## THE BEST EDUCATION FOR CHILDREN?

- Trust schools do not offer a better education than any other category of school;
- All schools are able to establish effective arrangements to benefit pupils with external bodies without these being exclusive relationships or allowing them a say in the day to day running of the school;
- Trusts, as their own admissions bodies, may distort local admissions arrangements if they do not participate fully with the local authority on the admission of pupils with SEN or English as an additional language, with the Every Child Matters Agenda, with 14-19 Partnerships, or other arrangements currently brokered by the local authority; and
- Trust schools are less democratically accountable to their school and wider community.

## HOW WILL TRUSTS AFFECT THE ROLE OF GOVERNORS?

- There is no guarantee that existing school governors will remain in place if a school becomes a Trust;
- A Trust has the right to appoint governors and can even choose to appoint the majority of governors, including parent governors;
- Governing bodies are likely to be less representative of the school community if they are appointed rather than elected;
- Governors will take over responsibility for the school's land, building, assets and health, safety, and welfare; and
- Only school governors can decide whether or not to seek or acquire Trust status.

## WHAT TO DO IF A TRUST IS PLANNED IN YOUR AREA

- Trusts are not inevitable: successful campaigns have been fought against Trust school status;
- Consult other governors and suggest a formal vote on whether to seek Trust status;
- Ensure there is a ballot of parents, staff and other stakeholders as part of any consultation process;
- Discuss your concerns with parents and encourage them to oppose the Trust;
- Write to and meet with the local media, local councillors and your MP to voice your concerns about the planned Trust;
- Ensure you and others make your views known through the consultation which may be as little as six weeks long;
- The NUT has advice and guidance on campaigning against Trust schools on its website [www.teachers.org.uk](http://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](http://www.casenet.org); and
- The Anti Academies Alliance website also has information on Trust schools at [www.antiacademies.org.uk](http://www.antiacademies.org.uk) and may also be able to offer support locally.

### IN SHORT

- Trust school status gives control of the school to outside organisations which can include private companies;
- 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.