



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

## **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.

# **Oppose Trust School Status**

**IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOR  
PARENTS ABOUT TRUST SCHOOLS**

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



**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 burden;
- 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](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 has information on Trust schools at [www.antiacademies.org.uk](http://www.antiacademies.org.uk) and may also be able to offer support locally.