

Anti Academies Alliance



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“A good local school for every child”

Academies: the facts against conversion

FACT

Academy conversion does not benefit educational attainment in primary schools

“We have been unable to locate any evidence ... of a relationship between primary academy status and raised attainment ... We heard some evidence that the particular challenges for primary schools within the academy system are not sufficiently recognised. Concerns ranged from the low levels of representation of the primary sector on the new headteacher boards to fears that cross-sector MATs could view their primary schools merely as feeders for the more important secondary schools or, more broadly, might lack knowledge of the primary sector and its importance in its own right”.

Source: House of Commons Education Committee: ‘Academies and free schools’ (2015)

<https://publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201415/cmselect/cmeduc/258/258.pdf>



FACT

Academy conversion does not benefit attainment in secondary schools

“Our principal finding through this extensive study is that academies do not provide an automatic solution to school improvement. As we demonstrate throughout this report, there is significant variation in performance at both different types of academies and Multi-Academy Trusts. ... There is no evidence that schools judged as good, satisfactory or inadequate ... improved their pupils’ GCSE attainment as a result of the academy conversion”.

Source: Education Policy Institute: ‘Impact of academies on educational outcomes (2017)’

https://epi.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2017/07/EPI_-_Impact_of_Academies_Consolidated_Report.pdf



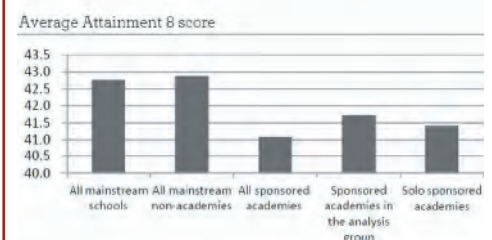
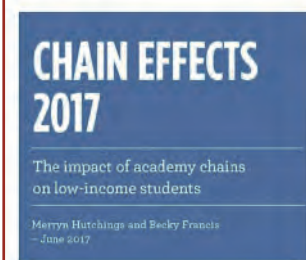
FACT

Academy conversion does not benefit attainment for ‘disadvantaged’ pupils

“Too many chain sponsors, despite several years in charge of their schools, continue to struggle to improve the outcomes of their most disadvantaged students ... Disadvantaged pupils in sponsored academies did less well than those in all mainstream schools and in mainstream schools other than academies”.

Source: Sutton Trust: Chain Effects 2017: impact of academy chains on low-income students

<https://www.suttontrust.com/wp-content/uploads/2017/06/Chain-Effects-2017.pdf>



Academies: the facts against conversion



FACT

Your child is more likely to be taught by an unqualified teacher in an academy

Unqualified teachers in primary schools:

- **2.8%** of teachers in local authority maintained schools
- **4.8%** of teachers in academies

Unqualified teachers in secondary schools:

- **4.6%** of teachers in local authority schools
- **6.6%** of teachers in academies

Source: Department for Education Schools Workforce Statistics: trends and comparisons (2016)

<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/local-analysis-ofteacher-workforce-2010-to-2015>

Sector	Proportion of unqualified teachers (%)
Primary schools	
Maintained schools	2.8
Academies	4.6
Total	3.1
Secondary schools	
Maintained schools	4.8
Academies	6.6
Total	6.0

Sector	Rate of leavers to other schools (%)
Primary schools	
Maintained schools	7.8
Academies	9.7
Total	8.1
Secondary schools	
Maintained schools	7.6
Academies	8.2
Total	8.0

FACT

Your child's teacher is more likely to leave to go to another school if it is an academy

Teachers leaving to go to other schools (on average):

Academies:

- **9.7%** primary teachers
- **8.2%** secondary teachers

Local authority schools:

- **7.8%** primary teachers
- **7.6%** secondary teachers

Source: Department for Education Schools Workforce Statistics: trends and comparisons (2016)

<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/local-analysis-ofteacher-workforce-2010-to-2015>



Picture: Jess Hurd Report Digital

FACT

Your child's teacher is more likely to be paid less if they work in an academy (but senior management are more likely to earn more)

Average teacher salary in primary schools:

- **£33,800** in local authority maintained schools (but **£54,400** in the leadership group)
- **£32,600** in academies (but **£54,600** in the leadership group)

Average teacher salary in secondary schools:

- **£37,300** in local authority maintained schools (but **£63,100** in the leadership group)
- **£36,400** in academies (but **£63,200** in the leadership group)

Source: Department for Education Schools Workforce Statistics SFR25/2017

<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/school-workforce-in-england-november-2016>

FACT

Academies can set their own pay, terms and conditions for staff, threatening national agreements

“Where an academy converts from maintained school status, transferring staff are protected by TUPE (Transfer of Undertakings and Protection of Employment) arrangements. When hiring new staff, or in the case of entirely new academies and free schools, academy trusts can determine their own pay, terms and conditions for staff, providing they comply with employment law and any relevant terms in their funding agreements”.

Source: House of Commons Briefing ‘FAQs: Academies and Free Schools’ (2017)

http://dera.ioe.ac.uk/28805/2/SNO7059_Redacted.pdf



FACT

Multi Academy Trusts are less accountable to parents

“We heard from numerous sources that the means by which local communities can hold their trust to account is less clear than in maintained school structures ... We were told by parents that MATs are not sufficiently accountable to their local community and they feel disconnected from decision making at trustee board level”.

Source: House of Commons Education Committee Report ‘Multi-academy trusts’ (2017)

<https://publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201617/cmselect/cmeduc/204/204.pdf>

FACT

Academy conversion won't stop budget cuts (in fact, more academies are running up 'overspends' than Local Authority maintained schools)

Proportion of schools spending more than their income (2014-15)

Academies:

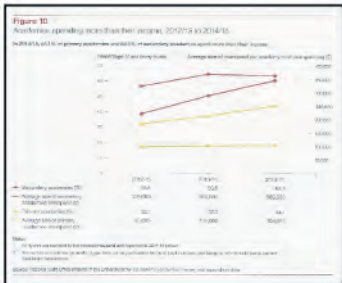
- 44.1% primary
- 60.6% secondary

Local Authority schools:

- 32.7% primary
- 59.3% secondary

Source: National Audit Office report into risks to schools' financial sustainability

<https://www.nao.org.uk/report/financial-sustainability-inschools/>



FACT

Schools do NOT have to choose to become academies

“In March 2016, the Government said it would pass legislation to require all remaining maintained schools to convert to academy status by 2022 at the latest. The plan was met with criticism; in October 2016, Education Secretary Justine Greening said that the Government would not bring forward further legislation this Parliamentary session”.

Source: House of Commons Briefing Paper ‘FAQs: Academies and Free Schools’ (2017)

http://dera.ioe.ac.uk/28805/2/SN07059_Redacted.pdf



FACT

If you decide you've made a mistake in converting to join a Multi Academy Trust, too bad! You have lost control of your school

Q. ‘Can an academy ever return to local authority control?’

A. There is no mechanism for an academy to return to local authority control. Academies that are deemed failing or underperforming may be transferred to another MAT or sponsor (known as re-brokering) or subject to other intervention from the relevant Regional Schools Commissioner’

Q. ‘Can an academy unilaterally decide to leave a multi-academy trust, or MAT, once it's joined?’

A. ‘There is currently no mechanism for a school that is part of a MAT to unilaterally decide to leave or transfer to another MAT’.

Source: House of Commons Briefing Paper ‘FAQs: Academies and Free Schools’ (2017)

http://dera.ioe.ac.uk/28805/2/SN07059_Redacted.pdf

FACT

Academy Trusts criticised for excessive expenditure and making business links with relatives' firms

“An investigation revealed that 40 chains had spent more than £1 million on executive expenses, including luxury hotels and first-class travel. More than half of the largest 50 chains pay their top bosses more than the prime minister's £143,000 salary”.

Source: Schools Week ‘Investigation reveals £1m expenses bill for academy bosses’ (2016)

<https://schoolsweek.co.uk/dfc-needs-to-beef-up-rules-after-investigation-reveals-1m-expenses-bill-for-academy-bosses>

“Thousands of transactions are being made every year by academies to individuals or organisations with which senior staff have relationships. The number of potential conflicts of interest, in the form of “related-party transactions” at academy trusts has soared by 50 per cent in the space of a single year. Meg Hillier, chair of the Commons public accounts select committee, said: “Despite previous warnings, it seems that too many still think it's OK to do business with relatives or businesses with whom the staff or governors have personal connections. It's not acceptable. Schools aren't personal fiefdoms”.

Source: House of Commons Briefing Paper ‘FAQs: Academies and Free Schools’ (2017)

http://dera.ioe.ac.uk/28805/2/SN07059_Redacted.pdf



Anti Academies Alliance



Many thanks to Martin Powell-Davies, London Regional Secretary NEU (NUT section), for the information contained in this factsheet, which is based on his original version

“A good local school for every child”

Build partnerships – don’t academise

FACT

School success in London has been based on partnership and support, not academisation

“The Government should focus on cost-effective and proven school improvement initiatives, such as local partnerships and federations or larger scale interventions such as the City Challenge programme ... A 2014 National Audit Office report ... found informal interventions such as local support were more effective than academy conversion. In 2013, Professor Merryn Hutchings, lead author of the DfE’s evaluation of the City Challenge programme, stated: “The evidence that the London Challenge was a successful approach to school improvement is overwhelming. It was also comparatively cheap; over three years the funding for City Challenge was £160 million, considerably cheaper than the £8.5 billion reportedly spent on the academies’ programme over two years”.

Source: EduFacts: Academy Status, Pupil Attainment and School Improvement

<https://www.teachers.org.uk/edufacts/academy-status-and-school-improvement>



FACT

Councils can develop federations instead of academies

“The purpose of the proposed Hackney Schools Group will be to maintain the continued improvement in educational performance and pupil outcomes in the Borough through the establishment of a ‘school led’ education system that is locally maintained and accountable ... using federation regulations to establish the schools group avoids the cost and distraction of academy conversion, including the significant transfer of land, staff and assets away from Council

management. It will reduce the potentially serious risks which are posed by the piecemeal conversion of schools into academies and their absorption into a range of academy chains and smaller, unsustainable MATs”.

Source: Meeting of Hackney Council Cabinet 18.12.17: ‘A New Direction for Hackney Schools’

<http://mginternet.hackney.gov.uk/mgAi.aspx?ID=30463>

#inclusive #comprehensive #funded

Let’s build a National Education Service together

#democratic #progressive

For more info see: workingtowardsnes.com

The Anti Academies Alliance is committed to the complete halt of the academisation of our schools. We will continue to campaign for the building of a National Education Service where all schools are democratic, inclusive, comprehensive, progressive and fully funded. Please affiliate at antiacademies.org.uk

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Please contact me so I/we can help the campaign

We want to affiliate to the Anti Academies Alliance

Name/Organisation.....

Postal address.....

Email.....

Phone number.....

Post code.....