

Education Past, Present, Future

Education In England post 97
Free Schools and Academies

How did we get to Academies?

- Education Action Zones
- Excellence in Cities
- City Academies

Schools turning into Academies

- Education Act 2002
- Academies Act 2010
- Education and Adoption Act 2015



Academies

- All schools - primary as well as secondary - have been invited to convert to academy status
- Receive funding directly from government
- Running of the school overseen by individual charitable bodies called academy trusts and may be part of an academy chain
- June 2015 = 4,676 March 2017 = 6,087 academies open in England
- Do not have to follow the National Curriculum
- Can set own term times

Types Of Academies

- Two distinct types of academies:
- Traditional academies** are underperforming state schools that have been removed from local authority control and have a sponsor.
- Can range from successful schools to faith bodies and they are held to account for improving the school's performance.
 - Sponsors do not have to make financial contribution, but the government has said that it is welcome, should they choose to do so.
- Academy converters** are the complete opposite of their traditional counterpart in that they are usually high performing.
- These schools have opted to convert to academy status as it brings greater autonomy and they form part of the Coalition government's vision to eventually allow all schools to become academies.

Benefits

- Increased Financial Resources
- Increased Independence to Determine the Curriculum
- Reduces Disadvantage

Criticisms

- "Academisation", is a way of 'privatising the school system'
- not required to follow national pay and conditions for teachers.
- Best schools would attract in the best teachers and resources, leaving those left under local authority control regarded as second best – social disadvantage
- Local councils have also lost money to provide support services for schools

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=X8wNCMTisc0>

Task

Should primary schools in England be encouraged to be academies?

Discuss your reasons for and against

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1CYHw0RLA>

<https://www.gov.uk/government/case-studies/academy-invests-in-technology-to-transform-teaching-and-learning>

Free Schools

- Funded by the government but aren't run by the local council.
- 'All ability' schools

Free schools can:

- Set their own pay and conditions for staff
- Change the length of school terms and the school day
- Do not have to follow the National Curriculum
- Given approval in the Academies Act (2010)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WF5XQIDQRpQ>

Types of Free Schools

- **University Technical Colleges** = Colleges specialise in subjects like engineering and construction - and teach these subjects along with business skills and using IT.
<https://youtu.be/npkVyb5Zm1c>
- **Studio schools** = Usually with around 300 pupils - delivering mainstream qualifications through project-based learning. This means working in realistic situations as well as learning academic subjects - https://youtu.be/NMr3ShT_KI4

UK Government (2015)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JnnDqfEijJs>

Difference between a free school and an academy

- Very similar – both set up under the Academies Act (2010)

Differences:

- Who sets one up;
- Their reasons for setting one up; and
- What must be demonstrated to secure permission to set one up

Task

Using the internet: make a list of the positives and negatives for free schools

Pros and Cons

- free schools programme gives parents and teachers the chance to create a new school if they are unhappy with state schools in a local area
- competition will drive up standards
- Do not have to employ qualified teachers
- likely to be centred disproportionately in middle-class neighbourhoods, to weaken already weak schools by attracting the best performing pupils

Additional Material

- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rRjK-MlrC0>
- Academies and lies
- [Charter Schools](#)
