

Academies

Jonathan Lewis
Assistant Director – Education and
Resources
Children's Services

Types of Schools

- Community schools
- Voluntary-controlled (VC) schools
- Voluntary-aided (VA) schools
- Foundation schools
- Trust School
- Academies
- Free Schools
- Independent Schools

What is an Academy?

- Have we been here before – Grant Maintained?
- An academy is an independent school.
- An academy receives funding directly from the Secretary of State.
- As part of the funding arrangements, it cannot charge fees.
- Free school = academy

Areas of Freedom

- **Staff pay and conditions:** Will not be required to follow national Teachers' Pay and Conditions.
- **The Curriculum:** Must be broad and balanced, include English, maths and science, and the National Curriculum assessment arrangements.
- **School Organisation:** Can change the length of terms and school days.
- **Financial and accounting arrangements:** Do not have to comply with local authority finance arrangements but follow company accounts.

Features of an Academy

- The contract is a legally binding agreement between the Secretary of State and the academy. The termination would require a **seven year** notice period.
- Academies remain at the heart of the community, collaborating and sharing facilities and expertise with other schools and the wider community.
- A school with religious designation will be able to retain it.

Situation in Peterborough

Phase 1	Phase 2 - Sponsored	Phase 3 - Converter
Thomas Deacon Academy	Nene Park Academy	Kings School
	Voyager Academy	Arthur Mellows VC
	Ormiston Bushfield Academy	Bishops Creighton Academy
	Stanground College (*)	

* Stanground College intending to convert in April 2012

Phase 1 Academies

- Academies formed from a school or a cluster of schools achieving less than 25% A-C GCSE grades over three consecutive years or significant re-organisation.
- These academies were established from sponsors from business, faith or voluntary groups in collaboration with partners from the local community.
- Thomas Deacon Academy was sponsored by Perkins Engines.

Phase 2 – Sponsored Academies

- Academies where existing schools have been identified as underachieving and a strong sponsor agrees to run / operate the school.
- Sponsors come from a wide range of backgrounds including education trusts, charities, commerce but typically are successful schools elsewhere.
- All applications are evaluated by DfE to ensure proven track record and suitability for schools circumstances.
- Different models of control from a sponsor exist.

Phase 2 - School	Sponsor
Nene Park Academy	Cambridge Meridian Education Trust
Voyager Academy	Comberton Academy Trust
Ormiston Bushfield Academy	Ormiston Education
Stanground College (*)	Greenwood Dale Academy Trust

Phase 3 - Converter Academies

- In 2010, schools rated 'outstanding' or 'good with outstanding features' by OfSTED could apply for academy status
- Other schools can apply as part of a partnership with a 'outstanding or good school' or existing academy trust with a proven track record of school improvement.
- 'Outstanding' special schools could apply from January 2011.
- From April 2011, the DFE will also consider applications from any individual school (including special schools) able to make a compelling case e.g exam performance, recent ofsted rating around capacity to improve.

Consultation, HR and Agreement

- All schools are required to carry out a consultation on setting up academy but it is up to them to decide whom and how to consult. There is no specified length of time for the consultation and schools have flexibility in how it is conducted.
- The employer of school staff (either the local authority or governing body) will need to conduct a TUPE consultation with all staff and the unions, once the governing body have formally agreed.
- The final decision over the application rests with the Secretary of State. LA has role in application process but not decision making powers.

Academy Trusts

- Every academy school is required to be overseen by an academy trust.
- The academy trust is a charitable company limited by guarantee and enters into the funding agreement with the Secretary of State.
- As the Members are directors and charitable trustees they will need to comply with obligations under company and charity law
- Members are limited by guarantee, liable up to one pound,
- Personally liable if a fraudulent or negligent statement is made which results in a loss to a third party (but not if they acted in 'good faith').
- Local Governing bodies operate at a school level reporting to Trusts typically. These are usually smaller than traditional governing bodies.

Academy Funding

- "Academies receive the same level of per-pupil funding as they would receive from the LA as a maintained school plus additions to cover the LA services that are no longer provided for them."
- "Those schools who opt to stay within local authority control will not be financially disadvantaged."
- "Existing academy funding system is not sustainable"
- General Annual Grant (GAG) - funding for normal running costs – based upon the Peterborough's school funding formula.
- Local Authority Central Spend Equivalent Grant (LACSEG) - Additional funding for services currently available free which the academy is now responsible for.
- LA Rates & insurance funded at actual cost
- Pupil premium – at the same rates as other schools but on an academic year basis.

LACSEG – Who delivers Services?

- Services where the LA has a statutory responsibility to provide a service, for example:
 - Statement and assessment processes
 - Monitoring of SEN provision
 - Prosecution of parents for non-attendance
 - Home to school transport is an LA responsibility but....
- Any "added value" services carried out, for example by Education Psychologists above the statutory EP process will be subject to a charge
- Traded services – but likely to be a higher cost....

LA Role with Academies

- Safeguarding
- Reporting of results
- Collaboration
- Statutory services relating to schools.
- Working with existing services which are unaffected e.g. social care, youth workers, connexions
- Traded relationship?

Operating Differences

- School land and buildings will be transferred from the Local Authority to the Academy on the basis of a long lease, normally 125 years.
- This is not without complications owing to land searches, deeds of covenants and other facilities on school sites.
- Potential pension deficit on Local Government Pension Scheme

Admissions

- If the school is a community school it will become its own admissions authority.
- As such will take control of:
 - Setting its own admissions arrangements, including PAN
 - Determining individual applications
 - Organising its own appeal
- Admissions and Admissions Appeals Codes of Practice and Fair Access Protocols take effect via the Funding Agreement.
- LA still responsible for co-ordinated admissions arrangements. And supply of school places.
- Individual academies required to make request to SoS to expand pupil numbers or age range.
- Will require local consultation and views of LA will be considered.