



Frequently Asked Questions

Will schools change their name?

No, all schools will retain their name including the term 'Primary School', 'Infant School' or 'Junior School'.

Will schools change their uniforms?

No, there will be no changes in uniform. The only time a change in uniform would be considered or appropriate would be for a sponsored school that was rebranding.

Will the language of academies be adopted?

No, school leaders will still be called Headteachers, Deputy Headteachers. The language of principle, vice-principle will not be used.

Will schools lose all autonomy?

No, school leaders will still retain autonomy to run their schools to best serve their communities. However, for the Trust to be effective, there will have to be alignment and standardisation in some areas and systems.

Will staff lose out?

No, we are committed to an improved offer for all staff. This means committing to the School Teachers Pay and Conditions and maintaining staff pensions. Our commitment is to offer an increased package of benefits for all staff to make us the employer of choice.

What happens to our OFSTED grade?

All schools would be closed and reopened with a new URN number. All schools would then be inspected within three years of conversion. OFSTED aim to inspect new schools in the third year of being open. Schools' readiness for inspection would need to be a priority in the first three years.

Is the academy drive the privatisation of schools?

Academy trusts are not businesses – nor are they run by 'private' people, and they cannot make a 'profit'. The land is not passed into 'private' ownership and trusts need permission to sell land – just like maintained schools

Do trusts have different legal responsibilities?

No, academy trusts do not have different legal responsibilities for example for pupils with SEND.

Can I change my mind?

Yes, schools can withdraw right up to the day of conversion.

Can I leave a trust?

Academy conversion is irreversible. Schools can move trusts but cannot move back to being maintained.