



LETTER TO PARENTS

[Date]

Dear Parent

Your child's school is considering becoming an academy. As the unions representing school staff, we are writing to you to explain what this means for your child and for the school.

Becoming an academy has profound implications for children and young people, parents, staff and the local community. The decision to apply for academy status is made by the school's governing body, which is required to consult with 'appropriate' persons. We believe that it is essential that there should be no question about the need to consult fully with parents and the local community about such an important decision.

As you know, the staff at the school are dedicated and committed to providing the best education for the pupils at the school. They have grave reservations about academy status. They believe that any change to the school should be one that makes a positive difference to children's educational attainment and there is no evidence to show that this school becoming an academy would raise educational standards.

We have enclosed a number of frequently asked questions and answers that we hope will inform your views on academy status. We hope that having considered all of the information, you will share our view that the high level of risk involved in academy status far outweighs any of the suggested advantages. The decision to become an academy is irreversible. There is no going back.

Any decisions affecting your child's education in such a fundamental way must be taken jointly by parents, staff, governing bodies and the local community.

If you share our concerns, please contact members of the school's governing body immediately to make your voice heard.

You may wish to organise a petition to show the strength of feeling among parents, and a suggested model petition is enclosed.

Yours sincerely

Mary Bousted
ATL General Secretary

Paul Kenny
GMB General Secretary

Chris Keates
NASUWT General Secretary

Christine Blower
NUT General Secretary

Dave Prentis
UNISON General Secretary

Derek Simpson/Tony Woodley
Unite General Secretaries