

# PRENDERGAST ACADEMY PLANS -

## Why the Governors should say NO ACADEMY



- **“Controversial”**
- **“Unproven”**
- **“No funding advantage to being an academy”**
- **“Take far less than their fair share of disadvantaged pupils”**

These are the facts about academies. Who says so? The Governors' Working Party say so in their own Report! SAIL says look at the facts and say NO to academies at Prendergast schools.

Questions you might be asking:	What the facts really say about academies:
<p>Isn't it true that academy schools give children a better education?  <b>The facts suggest NO</b></p>	<p><i>“Current evidence does not prove that academies raise standards overall or for disadvantaged children”</i>                      All-Party Select Committee of MPs, Jan 2015</p>
<p>Won't converting to an academy improve our exam results?  <b>The facts suggest NO</b></p>	<p><i>“The rate of improvement in GCSE results in Local Authority secondaries was twice that of converter academies”</i>                      Ofsted's Annual Report for 2013/14</p>
<p>Can academies be trusted to act fairly when they are given control of admissions policies?  <b>The facts suggest NO</b></p>	<p><i>“Charter School has been criticised for setting its catchment area to exclude children from two council estates with the risk of skewing its intake”</i>                      Guardian report on Schools Adjudicator, 2012.</p>
<p>Aren't academies better than non-academy 'maintained' schools at supporting students from all backgrounds?  <b>The facts suggest NO</b></p>	<p><i>“Converter Academies, on average, take far less than their fair share of disadvantaged pupils. They aren't helping increase social justice in education. Maintained schools should be preferred”.</i>                      Professor Gorard, listed in Governors' own report</p>
<p>Can academies help make sure all our schools do as well as the best-performing countries like Finland?  <b>The facts suggest NO</b></p>	<p><i>“Finland has rejected the idea that more 'school choice' will improve the system; when you have increasing number of academies, you have less collaboration between schools”</i>                      Dr Pasi Sahlberg, Finnish Ministry of Education</p>

<b>Questions you might be asking:</b>	<b>What the facts really say about academies:</b>
<p>Won't becoming an academy "secure greater accountability" for staff and parents? <b>The facts suggest NO</b></p>	<p><i>"Parents are sidelined from all important decisions, over whether schools convert in the first place, and over how they're run once they become academies"</i> From All-Party Select Committee Report, Jan 2015</p>
<p>Won't parents and staff have as many rights as they do now if the schools become academies? <b>The facts suggest NO</b></p>	<p><i>By law, parent and staff reps <u>have</u> to be elected onto the existing Federation Board. Under the academy plan, the Board of Trustees would then be mainly appointed by the Leathersellers' Company. Parents and staff would only have places on the second-tier Local Governing Bodies. See the proposed structure on the school website</i></p>
<p>Don't most Heads and Governors agree that schools have to become academies to successfully run a Federation of schools? <b>The facts suggest NO</b></p>	<p><i>"Why on earth should I go academy? What are the advantages? We already have a reasonable amount of freedom with the curriculum ... unions are happy because their members' terms and conditions are unaffected, the extra money that was given to academies has disappeared."</i> Chair of Governors, Dartmoor Schools Federation</p>
<p>Won't the schools be better-off if they convert into academies? <b>The facts suggest NO</b></p>	<p><i>"There is no funding advantage to being an academy" ... but there is a "risk of losing PFI funding rebates"</i> From the Governors' reports on the school website</p>
<p>Can we trust academy governors when they are given control over school budgets? <b>The facts suggest NO</b></p>	<p><i>"Nearly half of academy trusts have paid millions of pounds in public money towards the private businesses of directors, trustees and relatives"</i> Investigation by the National Audit Office, 2014</p>
<p>Isn't it true that most schools have become academies already? <b>The facts suggest NO</b></p>	<p><i>Only a fifth of schools in England have become academies. In Lewisham, it's even fewer - there are only four academy schools in the borough.</i> Facts from the NUT's Privatisation Department.</p>
<p>Weren't the Governors just following normal practice when they voted to apply for Academy status without asking parents first? <b>The facts suggest NO</b></p>	<p><i>"Conversion to academy status is a significant step" ... "No governing body should submit an application unless and until they have consulted"</i> Advice from the National Governors' Association</p>

## **Right or wrong? Give parents a vote on the Prendergast Academy Plan**

We hope these facts help you understand why SAIL opposes the academy plans - but every parent should have a chance to decide. That's why SAIL is calling on the Governors to hold a full consultation where parents can read and hear both sides of the debate. They should then hold a ballot so that parents can vote on the future of their schools. If the Governors are so sure of their arguments, why won't they agree to ballot parents?