

**DEMONSTRATE ON
SATURDAY 21 MARCH**

NO ACADEMIES AT PRENDERGAST!

Education in Lewisham is at risk.

The Governors of the Prendergast schools, **Hilly Fields, Ladywell Fields** and the **Vale**, want to turn all three schools into academies.

If these 3 schools convert, others could follow. **Education will be**

damaged and divided at Prendergast - and across Lewisham.

Even the Governors admit that **academies are 'controversial and unproven'** but are pressing ahead with a 'consultation' so they can convert the schools as quickly as possible. They are refusing to **give parents a vote** on the future of our schools.

Help persuade the Governors to think again, JOIN THE MARCH.



**ASSEMBLE: 12 pm by THE CLOCK TOWER
at the top of LEWISHAM HIGH STREET
MARCH: to a RALLY on HILLY FIELDS
opposite Prendergast School**

**Sign the petition to demand a parental ballot
Go online to stopacademiesinlewisham.org**



PRENDERGAST ACADEMY PLANS - Why the Governors should say NO ACADEMY

*** Isn't it true that academy schools give children a better education?**

NO! "Current evidence does not prove that academies raise standards overall or for disadvantaged children" All-Party Committee of MPs, Jan 2015

*** Aren't academies better than non-academy 'maintained' schools at supporting students from all backgrounds ?**

NO! "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". Professor S. Gorard,

*** Won't being an academy "secure greater accountability" for parents?**

NO! "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" From the All-Party Select Committee Report, Jan 2015.

*** Don't all Heads and Governors agree that schools have to become academies to successfully run a Federation of schools?**

NO! "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." Chair of Governors, Dartmoor Schools Federation

*** Won't the schools be better-off if they convert into academies?**

NO! "There is no funding advantage to being an academy" ... but there is a "risk of losing PFI funding rebates" From Prendergast Governors' reports

*** Can we always trust governors when they control school budgets?**

NO! "Nearly half of academy trusts have paid millions of pounds in public money towards the private businesses of directors, trustees and relatives". Investigation by the National Audit Office, 2014

*** Isn't it true that most schools have become academies already?**

NO! 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. Facts from the NUT's Privatisation Department.
