



LETTER TO PARENTS

June 2010

Dear Parent

The Government is encouraging all schools judged 'outstanding' by Ofsted to become academies. The school's Governing Body will need to decide this month if it wishes to become an academy from this September. There is no requirement for the Governing Body to consult with parents before making this decision. This means that your child/ren could be attending an academy after the summer holidays, without any prior consultation with you. Once a school has become an academy, there is no way back.

Our members are committed to continuing to provide your child/ren with an outstanding education, but we have grave concerns about the proposed academy model. Academies were originally set up to improve the educational attainment of secondary school pupils in disadvantaged communities and under challenging circumstances. There is no evidence to suggest that converting an outstanding school into an academy will make any difference to pupils' educational attainment, nor is there any evidence to suggest benefits for pupils in primary or special schools. In fact, we believe that the risks involved in academy status, in particular the loss of support from the local authority, far outweigh any of the suggested advantages of obtaining academy status.

We strongly believe that we can only remain an outstanding school with the support and trust of our parents. Any decisions affecting the future of your child/ren's education in such a fundamental way must be taken jointly by parents, staff, governing bodies and the community. If you share our concerns, we urge you to contact your parent representative on the Governing Body immediately to make your voice heard. You may wish to use the enclosed petition to show the strength of parents' views on this matter.

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