

EDWALTON PRIMARY SCHOOL



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Academy Conversion - Frequently Asked Questions

We have put together a summary of frequently asked questions which have been raised by the parents/carers of other schools which have gone through the academy conversion consultation process.

We hope that these answer most of the questions you may have in respect of academy conversion and what it would mean to our school should we decide to convert to an academy.

More information regarding academies can also be found on the websites:

www.gov.uk/government/organisations/department-for-education

www.antiacademies.org.uk/.

Please feel free to email the school office@edwalton.notts.sch.uk prior to the parents' consultation meeting on Wednesday 17th June 2015 at 6.30pm with any further queries you may have. Alternatively you may submit written questions to the school office. Unless you request otherwise, these will be added to the FAQ information and published on the school website. Please also feel free to talk with staff or governors – all conversations will be treated as confidential.

What is an Academy?

An academy is a state funded school, independent from the Local Authority.

How would converting to an academy help our school?

As an academy, we will have the flexibility to secure and build on our strengths so our children can continue to achieve their best, and we can continue to give them the greatest opportunities that we can.

Do we have to become an academy?

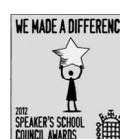
As we have good results, conversion is currently optional. However, Governors and the Senior Team have considered this very carefully and we believe that doing so is right for our school. All but two secondary schools in Nottinghamshire are academies and a growing number of primary schools are now converting whilst government policy still allows schools the freedom to choose. As we want the best for our children, we are conscious that in time government policy may change and schools could be forced into conversion, unable to choose with whom they convert.

How are the pupils affected?

The children will not notice any immediate difference; they will be in the same uniform, in the same classrooms with the same teaching staff. In time, they will benefit from the extra freedom given to us as an academy and the additional autonomy over our spending.

How will being an academy affect staff?

The staff will be employed by the Academy Trust rather than Nottinghamshire County Council. Staff are legally protected and transfer under the same employment terms and conditions, including pensions. Staff have been involved in the process to date and no objections have been raised by them in relation to this proposal and in fact they recognise the benefits.



Will the times of the school day and holidays change?

No, we feel that the current structure of the school day works well, as do the holidays.

Will the school change its name, logo or uniform?

We are proud to be Edwalton Primary School and our logo and uniform reflects this, so we are proposing to keep the name as Edwalton Primary School and keep the current school uniform.

Will the Curriculum change?

No, we will be keeping our current broad and exciting curriculum.

Will we get more money as an academy?

Academies receive the same amount of per-pupil funding as they would receive as a local authority school. The County Council will no longer top-slice our budget for central services but we will have to pay the Trust for some services and purchase others ourselves. The financial savings are not great and we are not proposing to become an academy for the money. We will have more control over how we spend our budget which will come from central government via the Trust. We will also receive a grant of £25,000 to cover the cost of conversion.

Will the criteria for getting a place at the school change?

There are no plans to change the admissions criteria. If we decided to in the future we would have to consult with parents.

19 May 2015