

Appendix 1

Academies, Trust schools and National Challenge Trust schools

What are they?

Academies

Academies are all-ability, state-funded independent schools established and managed by sponsors from a wide range of backgrounds, including high performing schools and colleges, universities, individual philanthropists, businesses, the voluntary sector, and the faith communities. Some are established educational providers, and all of them bring a record of success in other enterprises which they are able to apply to their Academies in partnership with experienced school managers.

Sponsors challenge traditional thinking on how schools are run and what they should be like for students. They seek to make a complete break with cultures of low aspiration which afflict too many communities and their schools.

Academies are set up with the backing of their local authority. Academies are not maintained by the local authority, but they collaborate closely with it, and with other schools in the area.

Trust Schools

Acquiring a Trust enables a school to enhance its governance by securing the long-term involvement of external partners, who are committed to supporting and challenging the school, as well as providing clear strategic direction and ethos for the school, in order to drive up standards. Essentially this is realised by the ability of the Trust to appoint governors onto the governing body of the school.

In legal terms Trust schools are foundation schools with a foundation.

National Challenge Trust Schools

Targeted at schools where less than 30 % of its pupils achieve five good GCSEs including English and maths.

Ostensibly National Challenge Trust schools are set up under the same arrangements as for Trust schools however there are two

key differences:

- National Challenge Trusts must be led by a strong school or other education partner (HEI, independent school or FE College);
- The Trust is set up in such a way so that the strong school/ education partner can take charge of the governance of the weak school with the Trust appointing *the majority* of the school's governors.

Schools are either closed and replaced by a National Challenge Trust school, or the LA replaces the governing body with an Interim Executive Board which makes recommendations on setting up a National Challenge Trust for the school.

Each National Challenge school will be allocated a National Challenge Adviser, who will work with the school leadership to develop a tailored package of support. The Trust must have radical and transformational proposals for school improvement and standards on both a rapid and sustainable basis.

Key differences and similarities

	Academies	Trusts	National Challenge Trusts
Legal status	Independent schools (Academy Trust formed as a company limited by guarantee with charitable status)	Foundation schools with a foundation (maintained by the LA)	Foundation schools with a foundation (maintained by the LA)
Governance arrangements	<p>The Academy Trust as set out in the memorandum and articles is the governing body of the school. LA will have a seat on the governing body</p> <p>The number of governors on an Academy governing body is not prescribed, but the expectation</p>	<p>Same as for all LA maintained schools – stakeholder model of governance is adhered to.</p> <p>Similarly to voluntary aided (VA) schools, the Trust appoints representatives to the governing body.</p>	<p>Same as for all LA maintained schools – stakeholder model of governance is adhered to.</p> <p>Similarly to voluntary aided (VA) schools, the Trust appoints representatives to the governing body. In this case it will appoint <i>the majority</i> of governors.</p>

	is for the body to be relatively small.		
Funding	Funded directly by central government through a funding agreement (a contract between the Secretary of State and an Academy Trust). Academies are funded at a level comparable to other local schools in their area.	Funded by LA	Funded by LA
Capital – ownership of land and assets	Academy Trust owns lands and assets	Trust owns land and assets	Trust owns land and assets
Employment of staff	Governing Body (i.e. the Academy Trust) employs staff	Governing Body employs staff (same for foundation and VA schools)	Governing Body employs staff (same for foundation and VA schools)
Curriculum freedoms	All new Academies are required to follow only the National Curriculum programmes of study in English, maths, science and ICT.	Does have to adhere to National Curriculum	Does have to adhere to National Curriculum
Admissions, SEN and exclusions policy	All Academies are bound by the same School Admissions Code, SEN Code of Practice and exclusions guidance as all	Required by law to follow the School Admissions Code, SEN Code of Practice and exclusions guidance	Required by law to follow the School Admissions Code, SEN Code of Practice and exclusions guidance

	other state-funded schools by virtue of their funding agreements		
Specialism	All academies have specialist school status, and have a specialism in one or more subjects	Not required but likely to have a specialism	Not required but likely to have a specialism
Financial benefits	On establishing an academy, the sponsor sets up an endowment fund, the proceeds of which are spent by the academy trust on measures to counteract the impact of deprivation on education in their local communities.	None	Up to £750,000 (depending on need identified)
Consultation	<p>Required if the Academy is replacing a school that is being closed.</p> <p>Not legally required if not replacing a closing school, however there hasn't been an occasion where an Academy proposal (even a new one being built to provide new school places) hasn't been consulted on.</p>	Required whether its replacing a school that is closing, involves a school changing its status or a new school entirely	Required whether its replacing a school that is closing, involves a school changing its status or is a new school entirely