

FAQS for parents about converting to become an Academy

Question	Answer
<p>What is an academy?</p>	<p>Academies are state schools which are free from local authority control and are directly funded by the Department of Education. Academies have greater freedoms to determine how the school's funding is utilised to optimise the educational outcomes for its students and are able to direct their own operational procedures such as the taught curriculum and the hours of the school day.</p>
<p>Who runs an academy?</p>	<p>The Academy Trust will have members and a board of trustees who are responsible for the management of the academy. The Academy Trust is a company limited by guarantee with charitable status. The Trust has a formal agreement with the Department of Education to provide educational services to its students.</p>
<p>How is an academy funded?</p>	<p>Academies are funded directly by the Education Funding Agency (part of the Department of Education). This means that academies receive 100% of their grant (rather than a proportion of these funds being diverted to the local authority) and are free to choose how to spend it, as long as it is spent on improving the education of its students.</p>
<p>Why is Western Springs Primary School considering becoming an academy?</p>	<p>Given the uncertain education landscape, the IEB felt that now was the time to take control of our own destiny. The IEB of Western Springs Primary School passed a resolution to convert to become an Academy within Perry Hall Multi-Academy Trust as Government policy is clearly directing schools towards Academy status.</p>
<p>How will Western Springs Primary School change if it becomes an academy?</p>	<p>To our children and their families and our staff, Western Springs Primary School will seem unchanged after conversion. The school will continue to focus on our aims and values and will continue to provide a caring, safe, secure and stimulating environment where your child is encouraged to become a self-confident and self-disciplined learner.</p>
<p>If Western Springs Primary School becomes an academy could it either become selective or change its admission criteria?</p>	<p>The school will continue to have its admissions co-ordinated through the Local Authority and therefore our admissions criteria will remain unchanged and we will not become a selective school.</p>
<p>Can we afford the set up costs of becoming an academy?</p>	<p>Yes. The governors have carefully assessed the costs associated with the conversion together with the grant issued by the Department of Education for schools converting to academy status. The governors have concluded that the cost of transfer can be met without using any funding allocated within its budget for the running of the school.</p>
<p>How will becoming an academy affect the relationship between local schools?</p>	<p>Western Springs Primary School has a strong collaborative working relationship with local schools and these relationships will continue to be strengthened and will no doubt further flourish.</p>

