

MOTION ON NOTICE

City Council 11 July 2016



Academisation of Schools

This Council notes, with concern, the proposal in the recently published education White Paper, "Educational Excellence Everywhere" which will force all schools in Plymouth to become academies, irrespective of the school's wishes.

This council meeting notes that the White Paper's proposals –

- would remove the requirement of schools to elect parent governors;
- would require the transfer of land and buildings of such schools to central ownership by the Secretary of State;
- do not include any say for parents and local communities over the future status of local schools;
- requires lengthy and costly conversion exercises.

This council meeting further notes -

- over 80% of children attending schools in Plymouth attend schools that are rated by Ofsted as "good" or "outstanding";
- the invaluable role of parent governors and the local authority acting as "critical friends" to both support and hold to account head teachers and schools;
- the comments of 58 head teachers from across Plymouth and Devon who wrote to the Secretary of State for Education urging her to "start listening and stop the rhetoric" and those of The National Association of Head teachers.

This council believes –

No single system of school organisation has a monopoly on success and that the model as proposed by the White Paper would not deliver the improvement in schools standards and outcomes that this council wishes to see.

This Council meeting therefore resolves to –

- Ask the Leader of the Council to write to the Secretary of State for Education expressing the concerns of this council as set out in this motion about the proposals to force all schools to become academies in Plymouth;**
- Ask the Leader of the Council to write to our local MPs expressing the council's concerns and to seek their views on the proposal;**

- c) Ask the lead member for Children and Young People to ensure engagement with head teachers, school governors, professional representatives, parents and the wider local community to raise awareness of the Government's proposals.

Proposed by Councillor McDonald
Seconded by Councillor Evans
Dated 1 July 2016