



Friday 25 June

New Academies: Further Update

Earlier today, Friday 25 June, the DfE bowed to pressure from unions, parents and others and published details of all the schools that have registered an interest in becoming an academy school. You can view their list of such schools here: <http://www.education.gov.uk/academies/schools-registering-interest>

As a matter of urgency, ATL is mapping the details of these schools onto our membership database so that we can email members working in these schools directly, no later than Wednesday 30 June.

The Academies Bill is still being debated in Parliament and may not be passed into law before the summer. Estimates of the 'top slice' to be gained from the LA budget vary wildly from 3% to 11%. There is no clear guidance yet on how the transfer of land and premises will be dealt with. ATL believes such uncertainty makes it impossible for governors to take a decision this term whilst properly discharging their duties to consult, especially as their decision to become an academy cannot be reversed.

If your school is one of the outstanding schools listed as having registered an interest, our advice is that you should ask your head teacher the following questions:

- What is the intent of the school's registration of interest?
- Is the governing body being asked to take a vote this term?
- Will the school consult with staff, unions and parents before a vote is taken?

If your school governing body has already voted to make the switch, please contact your branch secretary or academies@atl.org.uk for further advice.

Schools that are not rated 'outstanding' by Ofsted cannot yet formally apply to make the switch. We are awaiting further details of how and when they will be able to do so.