

Update on Academies

June 2014

Current Statistics

- 17% of primary schools within Oxfordshire have converted to Academy Status (39 out of 227) which is in line with National Statistics
- 64% of secondary schools within Oxfordshire have converted to Academy Status (22 out of 34)
- Only secular and special primary schools have converted to date due to complications with church schools. The first small group of 3 VC and 1 VA schools are about to convert to be included in the Eynsham MAT academy. 2 other VA schools are joining a Church Academy Trust.
- Central and Local Government are encouraging all schools to convert due to perceived benefits but not necessarily bearing out in reality (especially for primary schools).

Current Position

- Continuing to research conversion to Academy Status
- Speaking to other local, like-minded schools to enhance relationships and share expertise
- Continue to work with Wallingford Partnership schools and reap the benefits of close relationships, shared costs etc
- Benefits of becoming an academy are currently, at best, questionable
- Some lessons learnt but more in relation to secondary schools and MATs
- Still very early days for primary schools so keeping a watching brief on the situation to ensure we are the first to act when / if time is right