

NAME OF COMMITTEE:	STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL ON RELIGIOUS EDUCATION
DATE OF MEETING:	9 November, 2010
SUBJECT:	Update on Academies
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IS THE REPORT EXEMPT?	No
IS THE REPORT CONFIDENTIAL?	No

SUMMARY:

The Academies Bill was passed in July 2010. The Government's vision is to create a world-beating school system in which every parent has access to a good school and all pupils achieve high standards. The central aims are to raise standards for all children, while narrowing the gap between the attainment of the most and least advantaged. The purpose of the Bill is to enable more schools to become academies and give them the freedoms and flexibilities they need to continue to drive up standards. Academies are publicly funded independent schools, free from local authority and national government control

The Government is clear that becoming an academy should not bring about a financial advantage or disadvantage to a school. However, academies have greater freedom on how they use their budgets, alongside other freedoms aimed at helping them innovate and raise standards. These freedoms include

- freedom from local authority control
- ability to set own pay and conditions for staff
- freedom from following the National Curriculum
- ability to change the lengths of terms and school days.

The DfE are also making plans for further freedoms in relation to 14 -19 partnerships

The funding for academies comes in the form of a grant, known as the General Annual Grant (GAG), paid by the Young People's Learning Agency (YPLA). The GAG is made up of different elements, as indicated below:

- **An amount equivalent to the school's current budget share**
By far the largest element of GAG is the school's core funding, known as its delegated budget share. This will be the same as the school's current budget share received from the local authority. YPLA make a small adjustments to

reflect any reduced business rates, paid by an academy as a charitable trust, and for insurance, which is paid separately in GAG.

- **Local authority central spend equivalent grant (LACSEG)**

This is the additional money to cover those central services that the local authority no longer provides. This element of grant is calculated by the Young People's Learning Agency (not the local authority), using a formula, based on an academy's pupil numbers and the amount that the relevant local authority spends on certain services and costs. It is not based on the actual costs of the services supplied to the individual school. Academies are free to buy back the services that they receive a percentage share of from the local authority or find them elsewhere.

Although DfE plans to consult on academies funding and claw back from Local Authorities, the current level of funding which academies receive through **LACSEG** is estimated to be £ 465 per pupil

Current position for Lincolnshire

On Oct 1st Lincolnshire has the following Academies:

- Trent Valley Academy
- The Priory Federation of Academies – this consists of 3 academies (Priory LSST/ Priory City/Priory Witham)
- St George's Academy
- Skegness Academy
- Ruskin Academy Grantham
- Giles Old Leake
- QE Grammar Alford

The DfE have recently confirmed that the following school have submitted business plans to become Academies by November 2010 although some expect delays) :

- Branston CC,
- West Grantham Federation (Grantham St Hugh's/ Corby Glen / Spittlegate/ Earl of Dysart),
- Caistor GS,
- Bourne Abbey.
- Welton William Farr

We are aware that other schools are expressing an interest and consulting through their Governing Bodies

RECOMMENDATION:
SACRE is asked to consider the report and comments noted.

PAPER TYPE	TITLE	DATE	ACCESSIBILITY