

<b>NAME OF COMMITTEE:</b>	<b>STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL ON RELIGIOUS EDUCATION</b>
<b>DATE OF MEETING:</b>	<b>8 March 2011</b>
<b>SUBJECT:</b>	<b>Update on Academies</b>
<b>REPORT BY:</b>	<b>Debbie Barnes</b>
<b>NAME OF CONTACT OFFICER:</b>	<b>Debbie Barnes</b>
<b>CONTACT OFFICER TEL NO:</b>	<b>01522 553204</b>
<b>CONTACT OFFICER EMAIL ADDRESS:</b>	<b>Debbie.barnes@lincolnshire.gov.uk</b>
<b>IS THE REPORT EXEMPT?</b>	<b>No</b>
<b>IS THE REPORT CONFIDENTIAL?</b>	<b>No</b>

**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. In effect Academies are independent publicly funded schools – they are not maintained by the Local Authority

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 the other freedoms that they enjoy.

**Funding Formulae**

The principle of academies' funding is that academies should receive the same level of per-pupil funding as they would receive from the local authority as a maintained school. In addition, they receive top-up funding to meet additional responsibilities that are no longer provided for them by the local authority.

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. We 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**

Lincolnshire has the following Academies:

- Trent Valley Academy
- The Priory Federation of Academies – this consists of 3 schools ( Priory LSST/ Priory City / Priory Witham )
- St George's Academy
- Skegness Academy
- Ruskin Academy Grantham
- Giles Old Leake
- QE Grammar School Alford
- Branston CC,
- West Grantham Federation (Grantham St Hugh's/ Corby Glen / Spittlegate/ Earl of Dysart)
- Caistor GS,
- Bourne Abbey.
- Welton William Farr

We expect more schools to convert and many are exploring benefits and risks of converting. However as there is no requirement to consult the Local Authority, it is not possible to provide a comprehensive list of schools making enquiries

Children's Services are in a position to offer Academies a range of services through a buy back model and have been providing this service from September 2010. A brochure has been produced and we have started to trade with academies.

### **Role of SACRE and Academies**

The role of SACRE is clearly defined with regard to maintained schools

SACRE must:

- Advise the local authority on Religious Education ( RE) given in accordance with an agreed syllabus,
- Publish an annual report on its work and on actions taken by its representative groups, specifying any matters on which it has advised the Local Authority

SACRE can undertake these functions within a mix of maintained and non maintained schools

A SACRE should also :

- Monitor the provision and quality of RE taught according to its agreed syllabus together with the overall effectiveness of the syllabus
- Provide advice and support on the effective teaching of RE in accordance with the locally agreed syllabus;
- Provide advice to the Local Authority and its schools on methods of teaching, the choice of teaching material and the provision of teacher training

SACRE would only be able to undertake the above duties with the full consent of an Academy as Academies have freedom over their curriculum and are not required to follow the agreed syllabus.

**RECOMMENDATION:** That SACRE be asked to consider the report and any comments made be included as necessary.