

Children and Young People Overview and Scrutiny Committee

BRIEFING NOTE – No. 09/18

Date: September 2018

Briefing paper to: All Members of the Children and Young People Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Purpose: Academy conversions and Ofsted ratings

ACADEMY CONVERSIONS

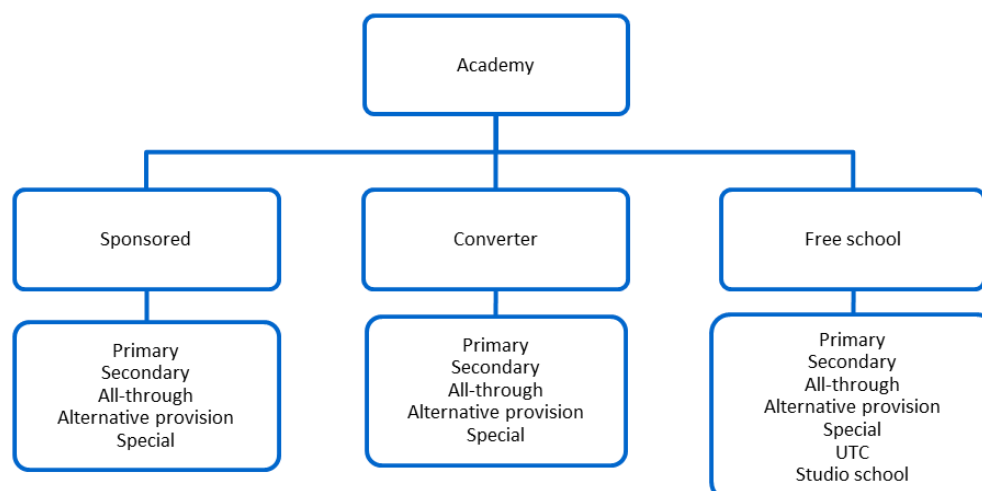
Officer Contact Details:

Paul Clarke – Programme Lead – School Organisation and Capital Services
paul.clarke@medway.gov.uk

Thomas Cogley – Consultation and Intelligence Officer
thomas.cogley@medway.gov.uk

Background

The academies concept has been introduced and developed in a number of stages by successive governments. The first academies, prior to 2010, were sponsored by individuals or organisations. It was under this scheme that Medway's first three academies were formed: Strood Academy, Brompton Academy, and Victory Academy (originally called Bishop of Rochester Academy). The Academies Act 2010 introduced converter academies, allowing any good or outstanding school to apply to become an academy. The Secretary of State also has the power to make an academy order, to force an underperforming school to convert to an academy. In 2011 free schools were introduced, allowing parents or other groups to apply to create a new school. The only difference between a free school and an academy is that a free school has not converted from an existing school. All new schools proposed by local authorities will also be free schools. University Technical Colleges (UTC) were introduced at the same time. These are free schools with an age range of 14-19, and a curriculum that focuses more on technical subjects.



Number of academies and trusts

The current numbers of academies in Medway are:

Phase	Number of academies	Number of maintained schools	Total schools in phase	Percentage of academies in phase
Primary	48	30	78	62%
All-through	1	0	1	100%
Secondary	16	1	17	94%
Special	4	1	5	80%
Pupil referral units	1	1	2	50%
Total	70	33	103	69%

There are 27 multi-academy trusts running academies in Medway, and 18 of these are based in Medway. There are two single academy trusts in Medway; Medway UTC Ltd, and Walderslade Girls' School. Walderslade Girls are joining Greenacre Academy Trust in September 2018. Danecourt, which formed the Argent Trust when it converted, joined the Barnsole Trust in April 2018.

The Williamson Trust and Leigh Academies Trust have proposed that the two trusts merge. They are currently carrying out due diligence checks, and the merger could take place in 2019.

Trust (Medway based in grey)	Medway Academies
The Thinking Schools Academy Trust	8
The Williamson Trust*	6
Fort Pitt Thomas Aveling Academies Trust	5
The Howard Academy Trust	5
Barnsole Primary Trust	4
Medway Anglican Schools Trust	3
Primary First Trust	3
Rivermead Inclusive Trust	3
RMET (Led by Rainham Mark Grammar School)	3
The Griffin Schools Trust	3
The Westbrook Trust	3
Greenacre Academy Trust	3
The Kemnal Academy Trust	2
University of Kent Academies Trust	2
Maritime Academy Trust	2
Pilgrim Multi-Academy Trust	2
Inspire Partnership Multi Academy Trust	2
Fortis Trust (Bradfields Academy)	1
Cliffe Woods Primary School	1
Leigh Academies Trust	1
Medway UTC Ltd	1
Oasis Trust	1
Parallel Learning Trust	1

Peninsula Gateway Academy Trust (Chattenden)	1
The Academy of Woodlands	1
The Castle Trust (Delce Academy)	1
The Inspiring Change Trust	1

**The Williamson Trust is joint sponsor at one primary academy, St James' CofE Primary Academy, with the Rochester Diocesan Board.*

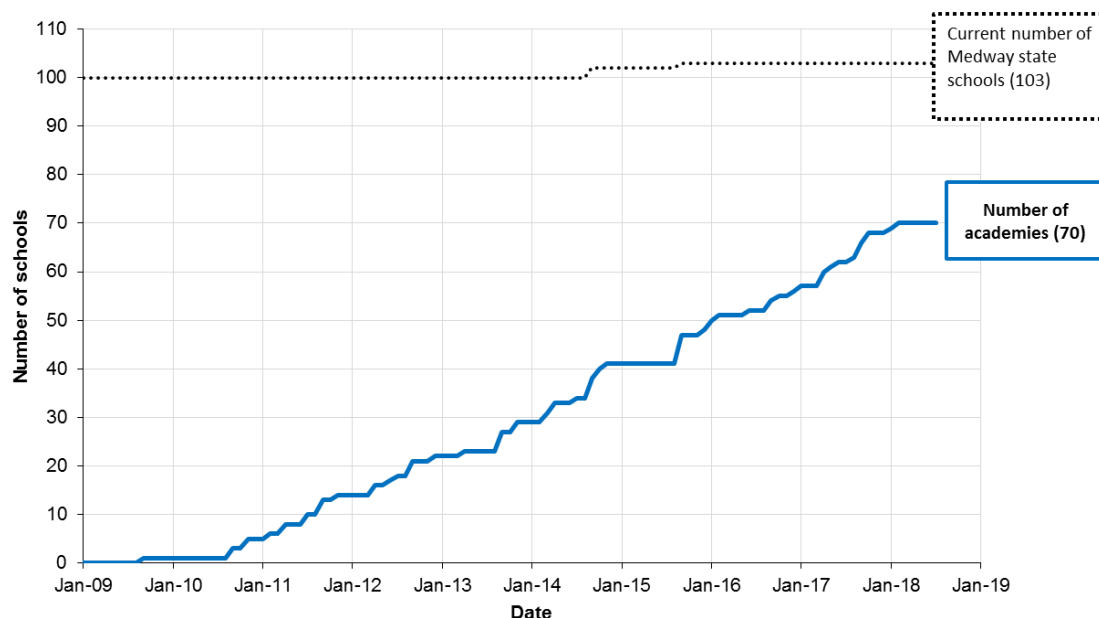
Academy trust transfers

With the agreement of the Regional Schools Commissioner, a single academy school can choose to join a multi-academy trust, or trusts can merge. Transfers can also take place if an academy performs consistently poorly, and the Regional Schools Commissioner believes the academy would improve if it was put under the control of another trust.

School	Original trust	New trust	Date
Holcombe Grammar School	Chatham Grammar School for Boys Trust	The Thinking Schools Academy Trust	01/01/2014
Thomas Aveling School	Thomas Aveling School	Fort Pitt Thomas Aveling Academies Trust	01/09/2015
Victory Academy	Bishop of Rochester Academy	The Thinking Schools Academy Trust	01/09/2015
INSPIRE Free Special School	The Inspiration Learning Co.	Parallel Learning Trust	01/04/2016
Wayfield Primary School	The Griffin Schools Trust	The Primary First Trust	01/09/2016
Strood Academy	Strood Academy	Leigh Academies Trust	01/01/2017
Chatham Grammar School for Girls	Chatham Grammar School for Girls	University of Kent Academies Trust	01/06/2017
Danecourt School	The Argent Trust	Barnsole Primary Trust	01/04/2018
Elaine Primary School	The Williamson Trust	Inspire Partnership Multi Academy Trust	01/05/2018
Walderslade Girls' School	Walderslade Girls' School	Greenacre Academy Trust	01/09/2018

Rate of conversion

The average rate of conversion has been consistent since November 2010, following the commencement of the Academies Act 2010 in July that year. Once schools were given the ability to convert to academy status, both primary and secondary schools have done so at similar rates.



Ofsted ratings

When a school converts to academy status, it loses its Ofsted rating. The time between a school converting and its first inspection as an academy varies. The average time between conversion and inspection is 29.2 months for primary (based on 24 academies that have been inspected), and 24.0 months for secondary (based on 13 academies). The longest time is 46 months for primary and 35 months for secondary. The shortest time between conversion and inspection is 5 months for both primary and secondary.

Changes to rating after conversion

There are 24 primary academies where we have a record of the Ofsted rating before and after conversion (ratings for schools before conversion are deleted from the Ofsted website).

Of these 24 academies, 11 have a better rating now than at the time of conversion, 10 have the same rating, and 3 have a worse rating. Looking at the 30 maintained primary schools that have not converted, compared to July 2016 and now, 7 have a better rating, 23 have the same rating, and none has a worse rating.

Appendix 1 – List of academies

Primary Academies						
School	Conversion type	Trust/sponsor	Date	Ofsted rating		Notes
				At Conversion	At 1st September 2018	
All Faiths Primary	Converter	The Thinking Schools Academy Trust	Jun 2012	2	3	
All Saint's CE Primary	Converter	Medway Anglican Schools Trust	Sep 2015	2	2	
Allhallows Primary	Sponsored	The Williamson Trust	Sep 2013	4	2	
Balfour Junior	Converter	Fort Pitt Thomas Aveling Academies Trust	Jan 2017	2	-	
Barnsole Primary School	Converter	Barnsole Primary Trust	May 2017	1	-	
Bligh Infant	Converter	Barnsole Primary Trust	Oct 2017	1	-	
Bligh Junior	Converter	Barnsole Primary Trust	Oct 2017	2	-	
Brompton Westbrook Primary	Converter	The Westbrook Trust	Oct 2014	2	2	
Byron Primary	Sponsored	The Westbrook Trust	Jan 2016	4	-	
Cedar Children's Academy	Sponsored	The Thinking Schools Academy Trust	Jun 2016	3	-	
Chattenden Primary	Converter	Peninsula Gateway Academy Trust	Jul 2012	2	2	
Cliffe Woods Primary	Converter	Cliffe Woods Primary School	Jul 2011	2	1	
Cuxton Infant	Converter	Primary First Trust	Sep 2014	2	-	
Cuxton Junior	Sponsored	Primary First Trust	Sep 2014	4	2	
Deanwood Primary	Converter	The Howard Academy Trust	Oct 2016	2	-	
Delce Academy	Converter	The Castle Trust	Apr 2014	2	3	
Elaine Primary	Sponsored	Inspire Partnership Multi-Academy Trust	Sep 2012	3	3	
Featherby Infants	Sponsored	The Maritime Academy Trust	Sep 2017	2	-	
Featherby Juniors	Sponsored	The Maritime Academy Trust	Sep 2017	4	-	
Gordon Infant	Sponsored	The Thinking Schools Academy Trust	Mar 2014	2	2	
Gordon Junior	Sponsored	The Thinking Schools Academy Trust	Mar 2014	4	2	
High Halstow Primary	Converter	The Williamson Trust	Apr 2012	3	2	

Hilltop Primary	Converter	Greenacre Academy Trust	Feb 2018	2	-	
Hoo St Werburgh Primary	Converter	Rivermead Inclusive Trust	Sep 2016	2	-	
Kingfisher Primary	Sponsored	The Griffin Schools Trust	Sep 2013	4	3	
Lordswood Primary	Sponsored	The Griffin Schools Trust	Nov 2013	3	3	
Maundene Primary	Sponsored	Inspire Partnership Multi-Academy Trust	Jan 2018	2	-	
Miers Court Primary	Converter	The Howard Academy Trust	Aug 2017	2	-	
Napier Primary	Sponsored	The Kennal Academy Trust	Sep 2014	3	3	
New Horizons Primary School	Sponsored	The Thinking Schools Academy Trust	Sep 2014	-	2	
Oasis Academy: Skinner Street	Sponsored	Oasis Trust	Sep 2013	3	2	
Phoenix Junior Academy	Sponsored	Fort Pitt Thomas Aveling Academies Trust	Sep 2012	3	2	
Riverside Primary School	Converter	RMET	Apr 2017	2	-	
Saxon Way Primary	Sponsored	The Griffin Schools Trust	Sep 2013	4	2	
St James' CE Primary	Sponsored	The Williamson Trust, Rochester Diocese	Dec 2012	3	2	
St John's CE Infant	Converter	Medway Anglican Schools Trust	Sep 2015	2	2	
St Margaret's Infant	Converter	The Westbrook Trust	Apr 2017	2	-	
St Margaret's CE Junior	Converter	Medway Anglican Schools Trust	Sep 2015	2	-	
St Margaret's at Troy Town	Converter	Pilgrim Multi-Academy Trust	Sep 2017	2	-	
Stoke Community Primary	Converter	The Williamson Trust	Nov 2014	3	3	
Temple Mill Primary	Sponsored	The Howard Academy Trust	Dec 2015	4	-	
Thames View Primary	Converter	The Howard Academy Trust	Apr 2017	2	-	
The Pilgrim CE Primary	Converter	Pilgrim Multi-Academy Trust	Dec 2016	1	-	
Twydall Primary	Sponsored	RMET	Feb 2016	4	-	
Walderslade Primary	Converter	Rivermead Inclusive Trust	Sep 2016	2	-	
Warren Wood Primary	Sponsored	Greenacre Academy Trust	Jul 2014	4	3	
Wayfield Primary	Converter	Primary First Trust	Nov 2013	2	4	
Woodlands Primary	Converter	The Academy of Woodlands	Apr 2013	2	2	

All-through Academies

School	Conversion type	Trust/sponsor	Date	Ofsted rating		Notes
				At Conversion	At 1st September 2018	
The Hundred of Hoo Academy	Sponsored	The Williamson Trust	Jul 2011	2	2	Became all-through in September 2015

Secondary Academies

School	Conversion type	Trust/sponsor	Date	Ofsted rating At 1st September 2018	Notes
Holcombe Grammar School	Converter	The Thinking Schools Academy Trust	Apr 2011	2	Was Chatham Grammar School for Boys
Chatham Grammar School for Girls	Converter	University of Kent Academies Trust	Sep 2011	2	
Fort Pitt Grammar Girls	Converter	Fort Pitt Thomas Aveling Academies Trust	Nov 2010	-	
Rainham Mark Grammar School	Converter	RMET	Jul 2011	1	
Sir Joseph Williamson's Mathematical School	Converter	The Williamson Trust	Apr 2011	-	
The Rochester Grammar School	Converter	The Thinking Schools Academy Trust	Nov 2010	-	
Strood Academy	Old style sponsored	Leigh Academies Trust	Sep 2009	2	New build under the original academy scheme
Victory Academy	Old style sponsored	The Thinking Schools Academy Trust	Sep 2010	2	New build under the original academy scheme
Brompton Academy	Old style sponsored	University of Kent Academies Trust	Sep 2010	2	New build under the original academy scheme
Greenacre School	Converter	Greenacre Academy Trust	Apr 2012	2	
Rainham School for Girls	Converter	The Kemnal Academy Trust	Feb 2011	2	
Robert Napier School	Sponsored	Fort Pitt Thomas Aveling Academies Trust	Sep 2012	3	
The Howard School	Converter	The Howard Academy Trust	Oct 2014	2	

The Thomas Aveling School	Converter	Fort Pitt Thomas Aveling Academies Trust	Sep 2011	2	
Walderslade Girls School	Converter	Walderslade Girls School	Nov 2011	3	Joining Greenacre Academy Trust in Sep 18
Medway UTC	New UTC	Medway UTC Ltd	Sep 2015	4	New build University Technical College

Special Academies

School	Conversion type	Trust/sponsor	Date	Ofsted rating		Notes
				At Conversion	At 1st September 2018	
Bradfields	Converter	Fortis Trust	Apr 2014	2	1	
Danecourt	Converter	Barnsole Primary Trust	Sep 2015	1	1	
Rivermead	Converter	Rivermead Inclusive Trust	Jan 2016	2	-	
INSPIRE Free Special School	New Special Free School	Parallel Learning Trust	Sep 2014	-	2	New free school

Alternative Provision Academies

School	Conversion type	Trust/sponsor	Date	Ofsted rating		Notes
				At Conversion	At 1st September 2018	
The Rowans	Converter	The Inspiring Change Trust	June 2017	1	-	