

Children and Young People Overview and Scrutiny Committee

BRIEFING NOTE – No. 01/17

Date: February 2017

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

Purpose: Academy conversions and Ofsted ratings

ACADEMY CONVERSIONS

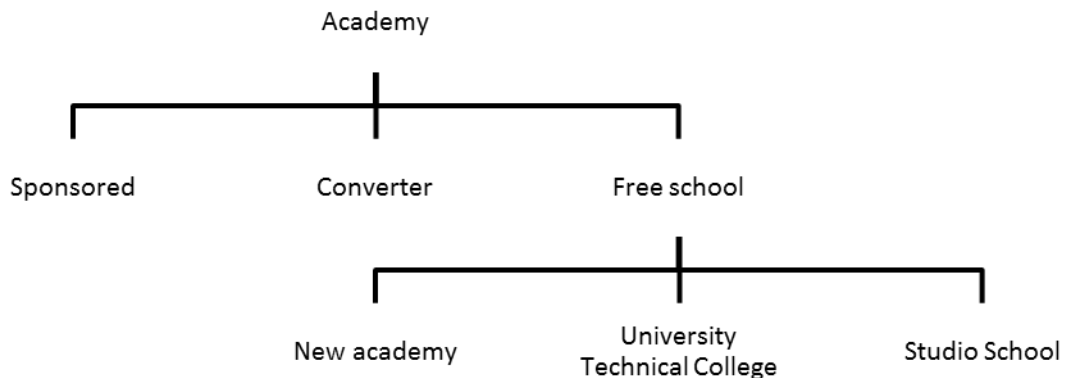
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Background

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. This also introduced University Technical Colleges (UTC). The only difference between a free school and an academy is that a free school has not converted from an existing school.



Number of academies and trusts

The current numbers of academies in Medway are:

Phase	Number of academies	Total schools in phase	Percentage of academies
Primary	37	79	47%
Secondary	17	18	94%
Special	4	5	80%
Pupil referral units	0	2	0%
Total	58	103*	57%

**Total is 103 rather than 104 because Hundred of Hoo is an all-through school, and so appears in both the primary and secondary phase of the table.*

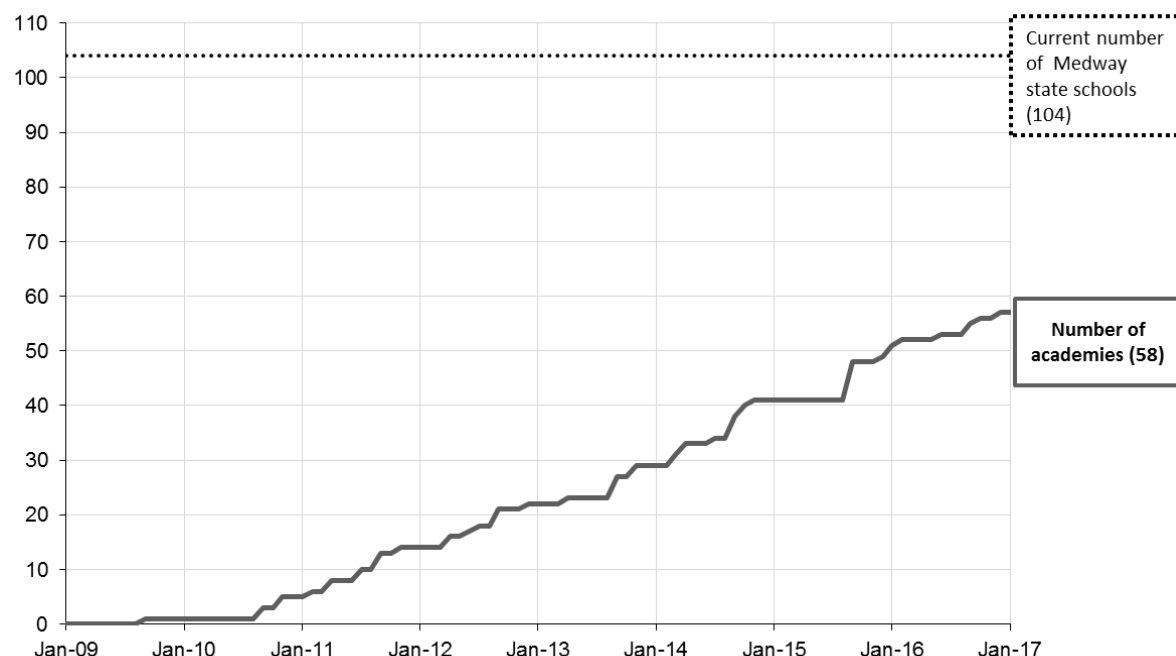
There are 20 multi-academy trusts running academies in Medway, and 15 of these are based in Medway. There are two single academy trusts in Medway; Walderslade Girls' School, and Chatham Girls Grammar School. Walderslade Girls are looking at setting up a multi-academy trust in the future. Cliffe Woods Primary School changed from a single to a multi-academy trust in July 2016. Chatham Grammar for Girls is seeking to join a new MAT to be established by the University of Kent, which already sponsors Brompton Academy. On 1 January 2017, Strood Academy joined Leigh Academies Trust

Trust (Medway based in grey)	Academies
The Thinking Schools Academy Trust	8
The Williamson Trust*	8
Fort Pitt Thomas Aveling Academies Trust	5
Medway Anglican Schools Trust	3
Primary First Trust	3
Rivermead Inclusive Trust	3
The Griffin Schools Trust	3
The Howard Academy Trust	3
Greenacre Academy Trust	2
RMET (Led by Rainham Mark Grammar School)	2
The Kemnal Academy Trust	2
The Westbrook Trust	2
Argent Trust (Danecourt)	1
Bradfields Academy	1
Medway UTC Ltd	1
Cliffe Woods Primary School	1
Leigh Academies Trust	1
Oasis Trust	1
Parallel Learning Trust	1
Peninsula Gateway Academy Trust (Chattenden)	1
The Academy of Woodlands	1
Pilgrim Multi-Academy Trust	1
The Castle Trust (Delce Academy)	1

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

Rate of conversion

The average rate of conversion has been fairly 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 did so at similar rates.



Rebrokering of academies

Rebrokering is the process of transferring an academy from one trust to another. It occurs when 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. There is only one academy that has been rebrokered in Medway so far. Wayfield Primary transferred from the Griffin Schools Trust to the Primary First Trust on 1st September 2016.

Ofsted ratings

When a school converts to academy status, it loses its Ofsted rating. The time between conversion and the first inspection as an academy varies. The average time between conversion and inspection is 24.4 months for primary (based on 15 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 15 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 the 15 academies, 8 had a better rating now than at the time of conversion, 6 have the same rating, and 1 has a worse rating. Looking at the 45 maintained

primary schools that have not converted, compared to December 2014 and now, 13 have a better rating, 31 have the same rating, and 1 has worse rating.

Appendix 1 – List of academies

Primary Academies (schools with academy orders to convert in grey)						
School	Conversion type	Trust/sponsor	Date	Ofsted rating		Notes
				At Conversion	At 1st January 2017	
All Faiths Primary	Converter	The Thinking Schools Academy Trust	Jun 2012	2	2	
All Saint's CE Primary	Converter	Medway Anglican Schools Trust	Sep 2015	2	-	
Allhallows Primary	Sponsored	The Williamson Trust	Sep 2013	4	2	
Balfour Junior	Converter	Fort Pitt Thomas Aveling Academies Trust	Jan 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		Jul 2011	2	1	
Cuxton Infant	Converter	Primary First Trust	Sep 2014	2	-	
Cuxton Junior	Sponsored	Primary First Trust	Sep 2014	4	-	
Deanwood Primary	Converter	The Howard Academy Trust	Oct 2016	2	-	
Delce Academy	Converter	The Castle Trust	Apr 2014	2	-	
Elaine Primary	Sponsored	The Williamson Trust	Sep 2012	3	3	
Gordon Infant	Sponsored	The Thinking Schools Academy Trust	Mar 2014	2	-	
Gordon Junior	Sponsored	The Thinking Schools Academy Trust	Mar 2014	4	-	
High Halstow Primary	Converter	The Williamson Trust	Apr 2012	3	2	
Hoo St Werburgh Primary	Converter	Rivermead Inclusive Trust	Sep 2016	2	-	
Hundred of Hoo	New primary phase	The Williamson Trust	Jul 2011	-	-	Hundred of Hoo became an all-through school
Kingfisher Primary	Sponsored	The Griffin Schools Trust	Sep 2013	4	3	

Lordswood Primary	Sponsored	The Griffin Schools Trust	Nov 2013	3	3	
Miers Court Primary	Converter	The Howard Academy Trust			2	Target date 1 September 2017
Napier Primary	Sponsored	The Kemnal Academy Trust	Sep 2014	3	-	
New Horizons Primary School	New academy/Sponsored	The Thinking Schools Academy Trust	Sep 2014	-	-	New academy
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			2	Target date 1 April 2017
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	-	
St Margaret's Infant	Converter	The Westbrook Trust			2	Target date 1 April 2017
St Margaret's CE Junior	Converter	Medway Anglican Schools Trust	Sep 2015	2	-	
Stoke Community Primary	Converter	The Williamson Trust	Nov 2014	3	-	
Temple Mill Primary	Sponsored	The Howard Academy Trust	Dec 2015	4	-	
Thames View Primary	Converter	The Howard Academy Trust			2	Target date 1 April 2017
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	-	
Wayfield Primary	Converter	Primary First Trust	Nov 2013	2	4	
Woodlands Primary	Converter	The Academy of Woodlands	Apr 2013	2	2	

Secondary Academies

School	Conversion type	Trust/sponsor	Date	Ofsted rating At 1st January 2017	Notes
Chatham Grammar School for Boys	Converter	The Thinking Schools Academy Trust	Apr 2011	2	
Chatham Grammar School for Girls	Converter		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	University for the Creative Arts	Sep 2009	2	New build under the original academy scheme
Victory Academy	Old style sponsored	The Thinking Schools Academy Trust	Sep 2010	3	New build under the original academy scheme
Brompton Academy	Old style sponsored	University of Kent	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 Hundred of Hoo Comprehensive School	Sponsored	The Williamson Trust	Jul 2011	2	
The Thomas Aveling School	Converter	Fort Pitt Thomas Aveling Academies Trust	Sep 2011	2	
Walderslade Girls School	Converter		Nov 2011	2	
Medway UTC	New UTC	Medway UTC Ltd	Sep 2015	-	New build University Technical College

Special Academies

School	Conversion type	Trust/sponsor	Date	Ofsted rating		Notes
				At Conversion	At 1st January 2017	
Bradfields	Converter	Bradfields Academy	Apr 2014	2	-	
Danecourt	Converter	Argent Trust	Sep 2015	1	-	
Rivermead	Converter	Rivermead Inclusive Trust	Jan 2016	2	-	
INSPIRE Free Special School	New Special Free School	Parallel Learning Trust	Sep 2014	-	4	New free school

Alternative Provision Academies

School	Conversion type	Trust/sponsor	Date	Ofsted rating		Notes
				At Conversion	At 1st January 2017	
The Rowans	Converter	The Rowans			1	Target date 1 June 2017