

Branch/Local Association - Draft Motion on City Academies

This branch/LA notes with concern the participation, through sponsorship, of some universities in New Labour's City Academies.

City Academies are schools that are financed jointly through the DfES and sponsors, unlike current comprehensive schools which are funded by Local Education Authorities and the DfES. The £2 million (less tax relief) contributed by sponsors enables them to appoint the majority of governors and determine the school's curriculum, admissions policy and staff pay and conditions. Tax-payers still pay for capital costs (up to £50 million), while the school is run by unaccountable bodies. They are better financed than ordinary state schools and are intended to be seen as 'better' schools, thereby establishing a hierarchy within local state education. They also make a break from state-run education, through funding, curriculum control and through teachers' pay.

We believe that every child should have access to the best possible state school. We deplore the marketisation of state education and the elitism behind the City Academies.

We therefore resolve to boycott and campaign against all attempts by UK universities to engage in the sponsorship of City Academies and to join with members in the NUT in our abhorrence of this project.