

Academies: Signposting the future Policy Review : 13 October 2010

Setting the scene

John Freeman CBE

A new UK Government took office on 11 May. As a result the content on this site may not reflect current Government policy.

All statutory guidance and legislation published on this site continues to reflect the current legal position unless indicated otherwise.

Schools and the Coalition Government

Over the coming months our key priorities will include:

- reducing bureaucracy;
- giving teachers and heads more say over the curriculum;
- giving teachers and heads more power to ensure good behaviour; and
- giving all schools the opportunity to apply for Academy freedoms if they wish to do so.

The Queen's Speech yesterday was the first step in making these changes a reality. It set out our plans to open up the Academies programme to allow all primary, secondary and special schools to gain Academy status.

Rt Hon Michael Gove MP to Headteachers, 26 May 2010

Local authorities and the Coalition Government

Strong local authorities (LAs) are central to our plans to improve education. The Coalition Government has partnership at its heart and I want to work in partnership with LAs to drive up standards for all children in all schools. I want to help LAs to continue to be powerful champions of educational excellence. As we develop our plans for the future, I would like them to have a strong strategic role working with schools to drive up standards, supporting schools who want to work together to share expertise, and promoting the spread of innovation to the benefit of all. I want local authorities to be shaping the vision for their local area and empowered to drive improvement.

Rt Hon Michael Gove MP to Lead Members, 26 May 2010

Direction of travel ...

Schools

- increased autonomy improves outcomes
- permissive approach to governance
- removing barriers to market entry – Free Schools
- raising standards, improving aspirations,
meeting the need of local communities

Direction of travel ...

Local authorities

- commissioners of provision, not providers
- champions of educational excellence
- championing the most vulnerable
- regulating the market; managing market failure
- raising standards, improving aspirations,
meeting the need of local communities

The new system ...

2010 will be transitional - by Thursday 7 May 2015:

- assume all schools are autonomous
- assume local authorities do not manage provision
- assume reduced resources for all elements of the system

Contested terrain

- revenue funding – national, local, or what?
- capital funding – how will it be managed?
- admissions – who makes sure that systems are fair, and fairly applied?
- exclusions – what provision is made for excluded pupils?
- planning – who plans the system in an area, ensuring sufficiency and suitability, and value-for-money?
- school improvement – how will it be managed?

Academies: Signposting the future Policy Review : 13 October 2010

Setting the scene

John Freeman CBE