

da Vinci College Sinfin School NASUWT Branch Position Statement on Academies

Members in this school are deeply concerned about reports that up to four Derby schools could become academies, including ourselves. We condemn the turmoil this would cause to our students, community and staff, particularly coming at a time when we have reached a stable position and have shown vast improvements (coming out of Special Measures, and improving exam results from 6% 5 A*-C grades to 46%). It seems that the recent PFI buildings at Merrill and Da Vinci could well result in greater pressure upon Sinfin Community School to become an academy.

We are particularly concerned that:

- 1) Academies represent a form of privatisation. Conversion to academy status would move da Vinci Community College teachers into the private sector and would pose massive threats to our terms and conditions of employment, including affecting our pensions.
- 2) Derby College is one potential sponsor. The recent history of Derby College as an employer does not make this an attractive proposition for us. Colleagues in FE sector have seen a worsening of their terms and conditions over the last decade or so and are typically paid around 70 – 75% of the average teacher's salary.
- 3) Academies show no improvement in results for the most disadvantaged children with 20% of academy pupils failing to achieve five A* to G grades at GCSE. This is double the national level of 10% and compares very poorly with numbers currently achieving grades A* to G at da Vinci (where consistently over 95% of students have achieved this.) at Sinfin.
- 4) Academies, though privately controlled, are financed almost entirely from taxation. The £2 million expected from sponsors (about £1.2m after tax relief) is much less than the additional cost of the buildings designed to meet the sponsor's wishes. In our case we have new PFI buildings, which would mean that in return for a £1.2million investment, any private sponsor would receive buildings worth far more - paid for by national and local taxpayers over the next twenty years. BDE money has already been released to aid the building of the new Sinfin school. A building costing £22 million of public money. For a private sponsor to then invest around £2 million (about £1.2 million after tax relief) and receive a building worth over ten times that would be nothing short of scandalous.

| [da Vinci Community College](#) [Sinfin Community School](#) NASUWT condemns the pressure exerted on Derby City Council to agree to Academies as a condition of BSF funding, particularly as Derby already has a large number of self-governing schools and an academy. We urge Derby City Council to resist this “pressure verging on duress” and to work together with NASUWT and other trade unions to develop a strategy by which we can lobby the government to release BSF monies without the precondition of additional academies in Derby.