



Sawley Infant School & Nursery & Sawley Junior School



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Juniors - Tel: 0115 973 3626 e-mail: info@sawley-jun.derbyshire.sch.uk

Questions parents frequently ask:-

Q. What is an academy?

A. Academies are state-funded schools that are not under Local Authority control.

Q. Will there be any changes to the catchment areas or admissions?

A. Academies are their own admissions authority and, therefore, set their own admissions policies. They are required to abide by the admissions code.

Q. What impact does academy status have on special educational needs (SEN) provision?

A. An academy is expected to behave as if they were a maintained school in meeting the needs of children with SEN.

Q. Does becoming an academy mean that the school will get new buildings and facilities?

A. The government is making no provision for academies to have new buildings or new facilities

Q. Will the Academy have the same school term/school holiday dates and school day timings as all other local schools that continue to have links with the council?

A. Academies can set their own term dates and school day timings without consultation with parents or the local council.

Q. The headteacher at my child's school has said s/he wants the school to become an academy. Can the headteacher make that decision?

A. No. A headteacher has no power to determine alone whether a school becomes an academy. The decision rests with the governing body and if the school is a voluntary aided or controlled school, with the relevant additional voluntary authorities.

Q. Is the school required to consult parents about becoming an academy?

A. The governing body of the school makes the decision about the school applying to become an academy. Schools are legally required to consult before becoming an academy. It is important that the voices of parents and the local community are heard on such a crucial and irreversible decision, and we would encourage parents to do everything they can to influence the governing body's decision.

Q. Will becoming an academy mean that educational standards will be raised?

A. There is no evidence that being an academy school raises standards. Academy schools have no better record of educational achievement than any other type of school. Some have a far worse record.

Q. Will there be more money for my child's education if the school becomes an academy?

A. The government has confirmed that academy status should not give schools a financial advantage. The school will be allocated its share of the money that is currently held by the local authority to make provision across all schools for all pupils.