

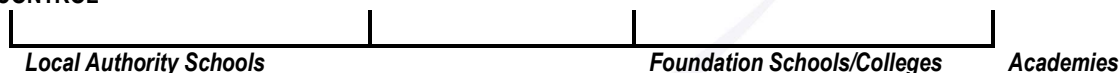
7 July 2010

Dear Parent/Carer

As you will be aware, all schools graded as 'Outstanding' following Ofsted inspections, have been invited to take on 'Academy Status'. As yet, no decision has been taken about changing Hollingworth from a 'Foundation' to a possible 'Academy'.

As a 'Foundation' College, Hollingworth already enjoys some of the advantages to be given to the new Academies. Our Foundation status basically means that we have far more freedom in the management of our affairs. Other schools are largely either controlled by the Churches (Church of England/Catholic) or by the Local Education Authority (Rochdale Council). The new Academies will be independent of all local council control. The chart below is an attempt to show the existing situation.

FULL CONTROL



To help shape opinion about possible Academy Status we have attempted to briefly outline some of the more significant changes relevant to pupils / parents / carers which would result in Academy Status.


1. All new Academies will receive extra money. It is estimated by the new government that Hollingworth would likely receive an additional £630,000 each year to spend directly on our pupils.
2. Academies will manage their own pupil admissions, although they would be expected to conform to the national framework for pupil admissions. In other words, our existing pupil admissions policy, if we became an academy, would be unchanged.
3. Academies would be released from National Curriculum restrictions. This would permit Academies much greater freedom to be 'innovative' in their curriculum provision.
4. The teaching trade unions have concerns about a 'two tier' education system whereby academies may have extra advantages and/or privileges. Additionally, all trade unions are concerned about the possible job losses amongst administrative staff employed by the local education authority.

There is much more information available on the internet about academies although it is important to stress the difference between the academies set up by the Labour government and those now proposed by the new Coalition government.

In conclusion, if Hollingworth became an academy, and we must stress the word 'if' at this stage, it is very unlikely that pupils would experience any material changes to their existing timetables/opportunities/prospects. Obviously, the biggest incentive looks to be a significant increase in money, which could make a positive difference.

If you have any views or opinions we would like to hear from you. We understand that parents/carers are very busy – raising children is a full time task without the added inconvenience of writing letters to Hollingworth. So, if we do not receive any comments from you we will assume that you have either no particular opinion either way or, indeed, that you support the possible transition to Academy Status. Any letters / emails etc about this should be addressed to myself, at Hollingworth.

Yours sincerely



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