

Mugginton CofE Primary School

Academies

The words Academy and “Academisation” were much in the media at the beginning of 2016. In particular, reference was made during national budget announcements in March 2016 to “all schools becoming academies”. Since then, the political landscape has changed and there no longer seems to be a drive to convert all schools to academies.

What are academies?

This description of academies is from the BBC web site:

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/education-13274090>

which also contains a brief outline of current plans for schools changing to academies. The link is a useful introduction to the subject.

- Academies are independent, state-funded schools, which receive their funding directly from central government, rather than through a local authority.
- The day-to-day running of the school is with the head teacher or principal, but they are overseen by individual charitable bodies called academy trusts and may be part of an academy chain.
- These trusts and chains provide advice, support, expertise and a strategic overview.
- They control their own admissions process and have more freedom than other schools to innovate.

Mugginton Primary School as an Academy?

Any school which falls into an Ofsted “category of concern”, usually following an “inadequate” judgement at an inspection, may be served with an academisation order – and will end up in an academy chain. Otherwise, there seems to be no pressure on schools that are judged to be “Good” or better (probably “Requires Improvement” or better), to change their leadership model although an increasing number of schools, including primary schools, are opting to join or form academy chains.

There is no doubt that the educational environment will continue to change over the next few years but there is still no requirement, and no advantage, for Mugginton to make a decision within the next few years about its long-term model of leadership. Unless the situation changes dramatically, there does not appear to be any reason to make such a decision before the end of 2020.

Your Governors will ensure that they and all school stakeholders remain well-informed about all the options open to the school so that the best leadership model for the future of the school can be selected.