

## What is an Academy?

The following is a brief overview of Academy status.

An Academy is a state funded school which is independent from the local authority. When a school converts to Academy status, it is no longer 'maintained' by the local authority and, like other independent schools, it becomes a company in its own right. Katharine Lady Berkeley's School is now a company limited by guarantee and registered at Companies House (company number 7696921).

Katharine Lady Berkeley's School is an Academy Trust. The members of the Academy Trust are the members of the previous Governing Body. The Academy Trust appoints the governors (also known as directors or trustees) to the Governing Body of the Academy. Therefore, essentially, the members of the company and the directors are the same group of people (see below). The governing body manages the Academy on behalf of the Academy Trust and their main responsibilities are to:

- ensure the quality of educational provision
- challenge and monitor the performance of the academy
- manage the academy trust's finances and property
- employ staff

The composition of the Katharine Lady Berkeley's School Academy Trust and the Governing Body will be as follows:

- Up to six persons appointed by or on behalf of Katharine Lady Berkeley's Foundation;
- 2 Staff Governors – generally one teacher and one associate (non-teaching) staff member;
- 4 Parent Governors;
- the Headteacher;
- 3 co-opted governors;
- The maximum number of Members appointed shall be 16.

As an Academy is no longer maintained by the Local Authority, it takes on the responsibility for a wide range of services such as Education Welfare, Special Education Needs Support Services, Free School Meals eligibility checks etc. In all of these services, Gloucestershire County Council offers them to Academies on a 'buy back' basis. As we have an excellent relationship with Gloucestershire County Council and many of these services are very good, we will be making extensive use of their traded services scheme. As an Academy, for some services we will be able to buy more or less support according to the specific needs of this school.

In order to purchase these services, an Academy receives an additional grant. The value of this grant is greater than the cost of the services which is one of the financial benefits in moving to Academy status. The other financial benefits for this school will be that we will no longer have to pay VAT on major capital items such as IT equipment and we will receive a grant to pay for our premises and liability insurance rather than paying for this from our main school budget.

If you have any questions concerning Academy status, please send me an email and I will endeavour to provide answers.

Andrew Harris  
1 August 2011