

Schools Bill [HL]

AMENDMENTS
TO BE MOVED
ON REPORT

Clause 1

LORD HUNT OF KINGS HEATH
LORD BLUNKETT

Clause 1, page 2, line 18, at end insert –

- “(2A) In setting standards in relation to Academies in respect of subsection (2)(k), the Secretary of State must require that each Academy Trust, each Multi Academy Trust, and each Academy within a Multi Academy Trust, prepares and revises a strategic policy on parental and community engagement at least once every three years.”

Member's explanatory statement

This is to make mandatory that every Academy must have a policy on parental and community engagement.

LORD HUNT OF KINGS HEATH

Clause 1, page 2, line 18, at end insert –

- “(2A) In setting standards in relation to Academies in respect of subsection (2)(k), the Secretary of State must –
- (a) require that each Academy Trust, each Multi Academy Trust and each Academy within a Multi Academy Trust must establish a parents council, and
 - (b) set out in regulations the composition, role and support of such parents councils.
- (2B) A statutory instrument containing regulations under subsection (2A) may not be made unless a draft of the instrument has been laid before and approved by a resolution of each House of Parliament.”

Member's explanatory statement

This is to ensure that every Academy must establish a parents council with regulations setting out the composition, role and support of such parents councils.

Clause 1 - continued

LORD HUNT OF KINGS HEATH

Clause 1, page 2, line 18, at end insert –

- “(2A) In setting standards in relation to Academies in respect of subsection (2)(k), the Secretary of State must require that each Multi Academy Trust set out the responsibilities to be devolved to the local governing bodies of individual Academies within the Multi Academy Trust.
- (2B) The responsibilities in subsection (2A) include –
- (a) ensuring there is clarity of vision, ethos and strategic direction of the school,
 - (b) enhancing the distinctive character of the school,
 - (c) protecting the professional autonomy of teachers over curriculum and content,
 - (d) holding executive leaders to account for the educational performance of the school and its pupils and the performance management of staff,
 - (e) organising the financial performance of the school and making sure its money is well spent,
 - (f) promoting an understanding and appreciation of different cultures through spiritual, moral, social and cultural development and personal, social, health and economic education, and
 - (g) ensuring the voices of parents and other stakeholders are heard.”

Member's explanatory statement

This amendment is designed to ensure that, in a Multi Academy Trust, there must be a scheme of delegation to the Local Governing Body of each Academy within the Multi Academy Trust so the LGB has sufficient authority to provide strategic direction of the school.

Clause 29

BARONESS BLOWER
LORD HUNT OF KINGS HEATH

Clause 29, page 23, line 24, at end insert “only with the consent of the governing body that is the subject of the application”

Member's explanatory statement

This amendment ensures that a local authority cannot apply for an Academy order to be made unless it has the consent of the governing body.

LORD HUNT OF KINGS HEATH
BARONESS BLOWER

Clause 29, page 23, line 30, at end insert –

- “(c) the parents and staff of the school that is the subject of the application, in a comprehensive and timely fashion, showing how the proposal will benefit children’s education and what alternatives have been considered.”

Clause 29 - continued***Member's explanatory statement***

This amendment seeks to ensure that, before a local authority can apply to the Secretary of State for an Academy order to be made in respect of any of its maintained schools, the parents and staff of the school must be properly consulted.

LORD HUNT OF KINGS HEATH
BARONESS BLOWER

Clause 29, page 24, line 6, leave out “following” and insert “before”

Member's explanatory statement

This amendment seeks to ensure that, before a maintained school is converted into an Academy, the parents and staff of the school must be properly consulted.

After Clause 29

LORD HUNT OF KINGS HEATH
BARONESS BLOWER

After Clause 29, insert the following new Clause –

“Consultation before joining a Multi Academy Trust

After section 14 of the Academies Act 2010, insert –

“14A Process by which an Academy joins a Multi Academy Trust

- (1) Before an Academy Trust may –
 - (a) make an application to join a Multi Academy Trust, or
 - (b) be required by the Secretary of State or Regional Schools Commissioner to join a Multi Academy Trust,

a consultation must be undertaken in a comprehensive and timely fashion with the parents and staff of the school that is the subject of the application or requirement.
- (2) The consultation under subsection (1) must show –
 - (a) how the proposal will benefit children's education and what alternatives have been considered;
 - (b) whether the Multi Academy Trust is geographically coherent in relation to the Academy Trust which is the subject of an application and, if not, the reasons why the Multi Academy Trust has been chosen.””

Member's explanatory statement

This amendment is designed to ensure that an academy cannot either apply to or be required to join a Multi Academy Trust before a full and proper consultation takes place with parents and staff.

After Clause 67

LORD HUNT OF KINGS HEATH

After Clause 67, insert the following new Clause—

“Complaints about admissions to Academies

- (1) The Local Government Act 1974 is amended as follows.
- (2) In subsection (1) of section 25 (authorities subject to investigation), at the end insert—
 - “(f) any Academy, in so far as it acts as its own admissions authority.”

Member's explanatory statement

The aim of the amendment is to allow parents to bring to the Local Government and Social Care Ombudsman complaints about academy admissions for independent investigation.

LORD HUNT OF KINGS HEATH

After Clause 67, insert the following new Clause—

“Local Government and Social Care Ombudsman: extension of functions

- (1) The Secretary of State may by regulations made by statutory instrument extend the powers of the Local Government and Social Care Ombudsman to consider complaints from parents of a pupil at a qualifying school in England in relation to the school.
- (2) In this section—
 - “Local Government and Social Care Ombudsman” means the Commission for Local Administration in England under section 23 of the Local Government Act 1974;
 - “qualifying school” means a community, foundation or voluntary school, a community or foundation special school, a maintained school and an Academy.
- (3) A statutory instrument containing regulations under this section may not be made unless a draft of the instrument has been laid before and approved by a resolution of each House of Parliament.”

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