

Full list of representations made in response to the publication of the statutory closure notice

Category	Comment
Parent/ carer of a child at Oxford School	This has been a very poor consultation. Many parents/carers do not know about the proposal, why were documents not posted to parents and carers?
Parent/ carer of a child at Oxford School	I wish to see my child's school remain under local authority control along with most of the other Oxford secondary schools. There is no evidence that the new academy can offer anything that is currently available to the school or that it can improve the education provided by the school. It is also now clear that the academy will not bring any significant new financial contribution towards much needed infrastructure improvements. At the same time the ability of parents and other interested groups to influence the running of the school, either through the local authority or as governors, will be severely diminished. I think it is a travesty that my daughter's education should be put in jeopardy in pursuit of an ideological dogma that has proved a failure in schools elsewhere in the country.
Parent/carer of child at another secondary school AND a child at primary school	Making Oxford School an academy will reduce choice in the area as there is already an academy nearby. I am not convinced by the academy model and don't think that academies necessarily raise standards (Oxford School is improving on its own, anyway). I worry that if Oxford School becomes an academy then parents and staff will have less say in how the school is run. Also terms and conditions for staff may change for the worse.
Parent/ carer of a child at primary school	The closure is inappropriate and politically motivated.
Parent/ carer of a child at primary school	For all the reasons in my original objection, I do not wish Oxford School to be replaced with an Academy. I believe Academies are not good for the community - I want schools to work together under the local authority, particularly secondary schools, to share expertise, not compete for

	<p>funding. I also am unsure about the admissions policy of the new Academy - I want to be reassured that the school will admit children with a range of abilities. I have no trust in the body running the Academy - they have no experience of running state Academies (apart from one which is in special measures), so why have they been chosen? Finally, I'd like to ask why we have to restate our reasons for objecting - this seems un-necessary, and makes it over-complicated. Do our original objections not count - is this why it has gone through?</p>
<p>Parent/ carer of a child at primary school</p>	<p>This is not an objection on the grounds of principle. I have worked in and around education, as a teacher, in policy, and in the private sector - but as a local parent I want not only the best for my kids, but for the community in which they live. My main objection to this proposal is that the proposal does not include local representation in the running of the school. I am prepared to accept all the vague statements, failings, and mistakes (of which I believe there are many) in the proposal if I knew that when the details are to be worked through, there will be a way for me (and all those who this school would serve) to contribute and to have influence to make this a great school. I believe that a commitment to local representation (not just the local councillors! Local politics is important but must not dominate), through elected parent, pupil, teacher, support staff and community representatives is essential. Furthermore, online tools (through any VLE that the school might use) provide simple ways for these groups to be involved in decision making without having to attend regular meetings. This key aspect to the running of the school must be resolved for me to accept this decision. I am not a fan of the existing school I am not involved in local politics I am not (any more) a member of a teaching union I am not impressed with the level of debate on this proposal so far I am worried that this is another 'done deal' and that this consultation is not authentic I know enough excellent teachers and school leaders who work in academies to know that when one is set up well - everyone benefits I am a local parent of two kids - 3 and 5 year olds I want the same as everyone else - a great school for them to thrive in Please help my kids, and the city they live in by making a smart decision. Reject this proposal.</p>
<p>Parent/ carer of a child at primary school</p>	<p>I have responded to two consultations on this now, and my reasons remain the same. I do not think that replacing Oxford School with an Academy is the solution. I think that this change will not address any issues which would help the school, and is actually likely to prove detrimental. The change</p>

	<p>is viewed negatively by much of the local community and so will not in itself help with recruitment. The whole process has been badly managed so that the period of uncertainty has been very detrimental for the school. I am very concerned about the change to academy status having a detrimental effect on staff morale which in turn may endanger the quality of education provided. I am entirely unconvinced that the new Academy, with its lack of accountability, will be in a position to improve the situation for students at the school.</p>
<p>Parent/ carer of a child at primary school</p>	<p>http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/education-11229213 [News report 10th September 2010, "Spending watchdog warns over academies' finances"]</p>
<p>Parent/carer of child at primary school AND teacher/ governor at another school</p>	<p>Oxford School does an outstanding job of responding to the specific needs of its local community. Ofsted does not have a tick box which adequately reflects this. Becoming an Academy will mean that the school can no longer respond to the community of which it is a vital part and will no longer be able to do what it does best. I think you will find that children will be withdrawn and sent to specialist faith schools which will cause community division and increase racism and marginalisation.</p>
<p>Teacher/ headteacher/ governor at Oxford School</p>	<p>The change of status of the school is already massively NEGATIVELY affecting the state of the staff within the school. Staff are working in uncertain conditions, which are creating unacceptable levels of stress. The proposed changes would prolong this time of stress for staff, as there are so many changes proposed - NOT necessarily taking into account the positive things about the school. The change of status would mean that the foundation status of the school would be for nothing - and the sponsors would gain valuable assets (in terms of land and building space). The proposed change in status has already upset so many staff that there are a number of high quality and high caliber staff who have already left. Many staff who said that they would not leave are now considering it - as the environment that this proposal has created is such that noone wants to stay working there. This is an environemnt that the council has created by making this proposal. Students are already picking up on this and it will negatively affect the results they are able to achieve. This years and last results have shown that the school is capable of making changes and supporting it's students in making those changes, as well as the interventions that are already in</p>

	<p>place for new year 11 students which suggests that this coming year 11 will have the best years results yet. The proposed changes, in the middle of a year, are set to jeopardise this.</p>
<p>Teacher/ headteacher/ governor at another school</p>	<p>Oxford School is the most successful secondary school in the county on progress measures. This is hardly indicative of a failing school. Its 2010 inspection confirmed its progress and capacity to improve. While parental choice is an issue, one that the previous governing body fully recognised, maintaining the school under local authority auspices gives the community better avenues for developing a cost effective and still distinctive school. Evidence shows that insufficient local people knew of the consultations that were deemed to have started on June 9th. The prospectus for the new Academy contains nothing that the current school is not currently doing or could not do as a LA school. If the proposal goes ahead, Oxford School will get no significant new resources - but it will be 'owned' by people with no local accountability and who will be given precious public assets for nothing. Closure should be rejected because inadequate attention has been given to how a strategy for school improvement should be developed across the city as a whole; the relative cost efficiencies of a more federated secondary school structure in the city have not been thoroughly investigated. • A new Education Act has fundamentally changed the terrain • BSF funding has been withdrawn (particular impact on Cheney school) • Cherwell has difficulties in recruitment • Oxford Academy has poor results ... (lowest A-G in the county) • Consultation showed overwhelming opposition to Oxford School becoming an Academy If piece-meal changes across city schools result in 3 or 4 different Academies, while lip service can be given to collaboration between them, in reality the 'survival of the fittest' will remain as the dominant culture - to the disadvantage of pupils and parents. The school should remain open and continue as a local authority school; the community should be fully consulted on properly researched alternative options on the best way of reenergising the school's image</p>
<p>Union</p>	<p>NASUWT:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Welcomes the opportunity to participate in this consultation NASUWT members are affected by these proposals both directly and the association will continue to represent these members at all stages in this Academy process. ○ Will continue to participate in all available local democratic

opportunities to support members at Oxford School, including meetings of COTO and Teachers Joint Committee NASUWT recognises the huge progress that has been made at Oxford School in recent months, marked by an improvement in exam results in 2010. Such improvement is thanks to the hard work of the whole school community, particularly teachers and teaching assistants working in the classroom.

- Recognises that there has recently commenced a formal dialogue with teacher representatives to negotiate how the transition to Academy status can be managed and the negative impact on current employees minimised.
- Has concerns about the ability of the local authority to engage with a consultation process on closure when permanent changes are already being implemented within the school in preparation for Academy status in January 2011. It would not seem possible for the authority to respond to contributions, amend plans and strategies and move forward in such a short space of time.
- Has already made clear the concern about the rushed nature of the transition to Academy status and the pressure this has placed upon all members of staff involved. This makes it more difficult for the Academy to open in a calm, positive manner in January 2011.
- Is concerned about the capacity of CfBT and OCVC to sustain current progress at Oxford School. CfBT does not have a proven, national track record of work in Academies. OCVC is facing its own considerable challenges in the light of current budget pressures. NASUWT is not yet convinced that these organisations will be able to effect dynamic and sustained change at the school.
- Is concerned that one key factor in placing the current school under so much pressure has been the proximity of another Academy in the city. There is a risk that opening a second Academy creates further tensions within a school system that has undergone significant change over the past few years.

The Academy proposal involves Oxfordshire County Council as one of the key partners. It is not clear how far the support/role of Oxfordshire County Council will differ from that currently provided to Oxford School. If the current support has not succeeded in sustained a fast enough rate of improvement, what is the authority seeking to change about its own service offer that will help lead the Academy in a new direction? The precise role of the local authority is not clear.

Oxfordshire NASUWT looks forward to reading the results of

	<p>the consultation process and studying the next, more detailed proposals when they are available. NASUWT will continue to provide positive critical feedback on any forthcoming proposals through COTO meetings and our Negotiating Secretary.</p>
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