



Department  
for Education

# **Analysis of OfSTED outcomes for sponsored academies since 2010**

**Ad-hoc Notice**

**December 2017**

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## Introduction

Academies are state schools that are directly funded by the Government and independent of local authority control.

There are a number of different types of academies. Some academies have sponsors, known as sponsored academies, while other schools convert to become academies without a sponsor, known as converter academies.

Sponsored academies are those which previously were typically poorly performing local authority schools which were closed following receipt of an Academy Order, and re-opened as an academy. Poor performance may include receiving an Inadequate OfSTED inspection outcome and/or longer-term performance issues.

When a school opens as an academy by joining an academy trust, or when an existing academy moves to a different academy trust, it will not normally be inspected by OfSTED until its third year of being within that trust.

This note sets out new analysis on the OfSTED ratings of local authority schools before they became a sponsored academy, and what their comparable OfSTED rating is after becoming a sponsored academy, where an inspection has taken place, since 2010.

## Methodology

A full list of open Academies as of November 2017 was produced by bringing together the latest published list of academies ([Open academies and academy projects in development](#)) for October with information on additional openers for November using the Get Information About Schools database ([Full GIAS extract as of 22 November 2017](#)). A full list of sources used can be found in table 1 below.

From this list, predecessor Unique Reference Numbers (URNs) for the following school types were collected to provide details of the predecessor local authority schools for each open sponsored academy:

- Community School
- Community Special School
- Foundation School
- Foundation Special School
- Pupil Referral Unit
- Voluntary Aided School
- Voluntary Controlled School

OfSTED inspection management information was linked to each of these local authority schools for their most recent inspection before they closed to become a sponsored academy. For sponsored academies who have had an inspection, the most recent

OfSTED inspection judgement the school has received was matched on for each open sponsored academy.

Only the following types of sponsored academy were included in this analysis:

- Those which had at least one local authority maintained predecessor school
- Those which have not been part of more than one academy trust since becoming a sponsored academy
- Those which have had an OfSTED inspection since becoming a sponsored academy.
- Those which became a sponsored academy after 1 May 2010.

Please see table below for column headings used in the findings and the data sources:

**Table 1: Sources of data used for analysis**

<b>Column Header</b>	<b>Data source/Notes</b>
Current Academy URN	<a href="#">Open academies and academy projects in development (October)</a>
Academy Phase	<a href="#">Open academies and academy projects in development (October)</a>
Current Academy open date	<a href="#">Full GIAS extract (taken 22 November 2017 for November openers)</a>
Predecessor URNs	
Predecessor school type	<a href="#">Manual look up from Full GIAS extract</a>
Last predecessor OfSTED rating	<a href="#">School inspections and outcomes: management information 2005-2015</a>
Last predecessor inspection published date	<a href="#">All subsequent publications</a>
Current academy OfSTED rating	<a href="#">OfSTED Management Information Publication (31 October)</a>
Current academy OfSTED published date	<a href="#">OfSTED Management Information Publication (31 October)</a>
Headcount of pupils in academy	<a href="#">Statistics on the number and characteristics of schools and pupils published yearly:</a>

## Main findings

- Since 2010, almost 2,000 sponsored academy schools have opened, 1,670 of which had at least one local authority maintained predecessor school. Of these 1,670 sponsored academies, 965 have been inspected by OfSTED since they opened.
- Of these 965 sponsored academies:
  - 115 (12 per cent) were judged as either Good or Outstanding, as a local authority maintained school, in their most recent inspection before they closed to become a sponsored academy, since 2010.
  - 657 (68 per cent) are now judged as either Good or Outstanding, in their most recent inspection since they have opened as a sponsored academy, since 2010.
  - 405 were judged as Inadequate as a local authority maintained school in their most recent inspection, before they closed to become a sponsored academy. Of these, 262 are now judged as Good or Outstanding based on their most recent inspection since they have opened as a sponsored academy. Since 2010, 65 per cent of all schools that were Inadequate before they closed as a local authority maintained school are now judged as Good or Outstanding (based on their latest OfSTED inspection grade) since opening as a sponsored academy.
- Data on these schools, their inspection grades and dates can be found in the accompanying data tables.

## Notes and Caveats

- 1) In some instances, an open sponsored academy had multiple local authority maintained predecessor schools. In these cases, only the OfSTED inspection result for the local authority school with the most recent inspection date before the school closed was used in the analysis. Information on these schools can also be found in the accompanying data tables.
- 2) The predecessor comparison is based on the last inspection of a local authority maintained school. However, this inspection outcome may not always represent the performance of the school at the time the academy process began, due to:
  - The inspection occurring quite some time prior to the school becoming an academy, and the school's performance results changing since the inspection, or;
  - The school being re-inspected as the school is undergoing becoming an academy and receiving a different judgement.

- 3) We have considered whether it is possible to compare these results for sponsored academies with a comparable set of schools that have remained in the local authority sector. This is complex due to large numbers of poorly performing schools becoming sponsored academies since 2010, leaving relatively few in the local authority sector to act as a comparison group.
- 4) From a total of 1,989 open sponsored academies (of 1 November 2017), 1,024 were excluded from the analysis for at least one the following reasons:
  - They opened before 1 May 2010
  - They had no predecessor school
  - Their predecessor school was not a local authority maintained school.
  - They have moved between trusts and have been given a new URN
  - They have not yet been inspected by OfSTED since opening as a sponsored academy

## **Get in touch**

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