



**Rt Hon Nicky Morgan MP**  
Secretary of State

Sanctuary Buildings Great Smith Street Westminster London SW1P 3BT  
tel: 0370 000 2288 [www.education.gov.uk/help/contactus](http://www.education.gov.uk/help/contactus)

Neil Carmichael MP  
Chair  
Education Committee  
House of Commons  
London  
SW1A 0AA

3

June 2016

*Dear Neil*

During the oral evidence session on Wednesday 27 April, you asked for further information on the costs associated with the conversion of local authority maintained schools into academies.

Through the recent Budget and the Department for Education's settlement in the Spending Review there are sufficient resources available to take advantage of the opportunities presented by all schools becoming academies. The Government has allocated £600 million to support all schools to become academies.

Of the £600 million allocated by the Government, £300 million will be available in this Parliament to support schools to convert and, in particular, support sponsors to turn around failing schools.

There is a range of pre-opening support grants available to schools. Currently, these grants contribute towards the costs of conversion incurred by schools in establishing an academy. These may include legal fees, costs associated with transfer of land, transfer of software licences, HR and TUPE advice and setting up the Academy Trust. The current pre-opening support grant for converter academies is typically worth £25,000. Grants to schools that become sponsored academies also include funding to support school improvement such as leadership support, teaching and learning interventions, pupil focused interventions, curriculum re-design and staff restructuring. These grants currently range from £70,000 for primary school fast track projects, up to £150,000 for secondary or all-through schools with the most significant school improvement needs.

The remaining £300 million available in this Parliament will be used to support strong and effective multi-academy trusts to grow and improve.

There are a number of grants currently available to support multi-academy trusts and sponsors. The Sponsor Capacity Fund supports eligible academy trusts that need additional funding as they grow and take on new schools. The Primary Academy Chain Development Grant is also available to support primary schools to realise the benefits of being part of strong academy chains.

Within the overall budget available, the Government is currently considering how best to consolidate and improve the support available to schools as they convert to become academies, and to deliver funding to build capacity across multi-academy trusts. We want to work with MATs, schools and LAs in doing so.

We have already confirmed that additional support will also be available for small schools. There will be dedicated support from experts in the Department for Education to help primary schools through the process of conversion and a £10 million fund for small rural schools to secure expert support and advice. In recognition of the costs that local authorities and church dioceses face, funding will also be provided to them.

Yours well

Nicky

RT HON NICKY MORGAN MP