

Save Our Community Schools!

Don't let them privatise Parkwood

Public meeting

Hosted by Sheffield North Anti-Academies Alliance.

Shirecliffe Community Centre
Shirecliffe Road

7pm

Thursday 28th February

Speakers invited from Anti-Academies Alliance, National Union of Teachers, the Local Authority and Parkwood school

Hands off Our Schools Say No to Privatisation!

Do you want your local school to go private?

Because that's what is happening right now under our noses. Three of our local secondary schools – Parkwood, Fir Vale and Firth Park – are about to be grabbed out of our hands to become academies. Unless you speak out now, they will fall into the clutches of people you have never met and never voted for.

First comes Parkwood. Parkwood will go to Edutrust, a group with no track record in education but backed, amongst others, by multi-millionaire property owners. Edutrust also has its eye on Fir Vale while Firth Park is up for grabs by the construction company, Kier.

Does it really matter who runs your local school?

Let's take Parkwood first. Ask a few questions and judge the answers you get for yourself. Start with these:

Why gamble with success?

Parkwood has achieved real success in recent times with help from the Local Authority. Why should we put all that at risk by handing it over to an

untried, private Trust?

Why an Academy takeover?

If Edutrust has a genuine interest in being a partner with Parkwood, why can't it offer help without strings? Why does it need to own it?

What is Edutrust?

Right now, we know who owns and runs our schools. But who is Edutrust? Tell us who is behind it and how they made their money. Or will that be a problem?

Are we going back to the past?

Around the country, why have academies swung into vocational subjects and away from GCSEs? Is it just to boost their league table scores with qualifications that employers have little time for? Is this where Parkwood is heading? Doesn't this sound like the old Secondary Moderns?

Why the blackmail and spin?

They try to tell us that we will only get a new school if we accept an Academy. But if the money is there why can't they give us a real choice on how it is spent? If it's such a good idea why do they need to blackmail us into accepting it?

They tell us that Hallam University will become "partners" if we accept the Academy. But the truth is that Hallam University already work in partnership with Parkwood, and every other school in the city.

Why don't their sums add up?

The Academy owners will bring a small sum worth about £40,000 a year, or 1% of the schools budget. In return for that, they are promising smaller class-sizes, a careers service, bursaries, a laptop for every child, and lots more. Try the sums yourself. One thing they are clearly not giving us is honesty.

This is a vital issue for the future of education in Parkwood and across Sheffield. We don't want a Railtrack fiasco in education.

Please sign our petitions, attend our meetings, and demand that your Council – the one you elected – listens

To contact the North Sheffield Anti-Academies Alliance phone Julia on 07715771504 or Ben on 07890 088456. Visit the Anti-Academies Alliance on www.antiacademies.org.uk