



Academies and Building Schools for the Future

The Academies Programme

Academies are publicly-funded, independently-managed schools that provide a first-class free education to local pupils of all abilities. They bring a distinctive approach to school leadership, drawing on the skills of sponsors from a wide range of backgrounds and other supporters. They provide headteachers and staff with new opportunities to develop educational strategies to raise standards and contribute to diversity in areas of disadvantage.

Academies are all-ability schools established by sponsors from business, faith, voluntary groups or other education establishments working in highly innovative partnerships with central Government and local education partners. However, their independent status allows them the flexibility to be innovative and creative in their curriculum, staffing and governance and to work in different ways to traditional local authority schools.

The Academies programme was introduced in 2000 with the initial target of 200 Academies open or in the pipeline by 2010. This target has recently been increased to 400.

Academies and Building Schools for the Future

In 2006, the responsibility for delivering the Academies building programme was transferred from the Department for Children, Schools and Families (DCSF) to Partnerships for Schools (Pfs), and in doing so, was integrated into the wider Building Schools for the Future (BSF) programme. As with BSF, policy ownership remains with the DCSF, who also continue to be responsible for sponsor relations in the Academies programme.

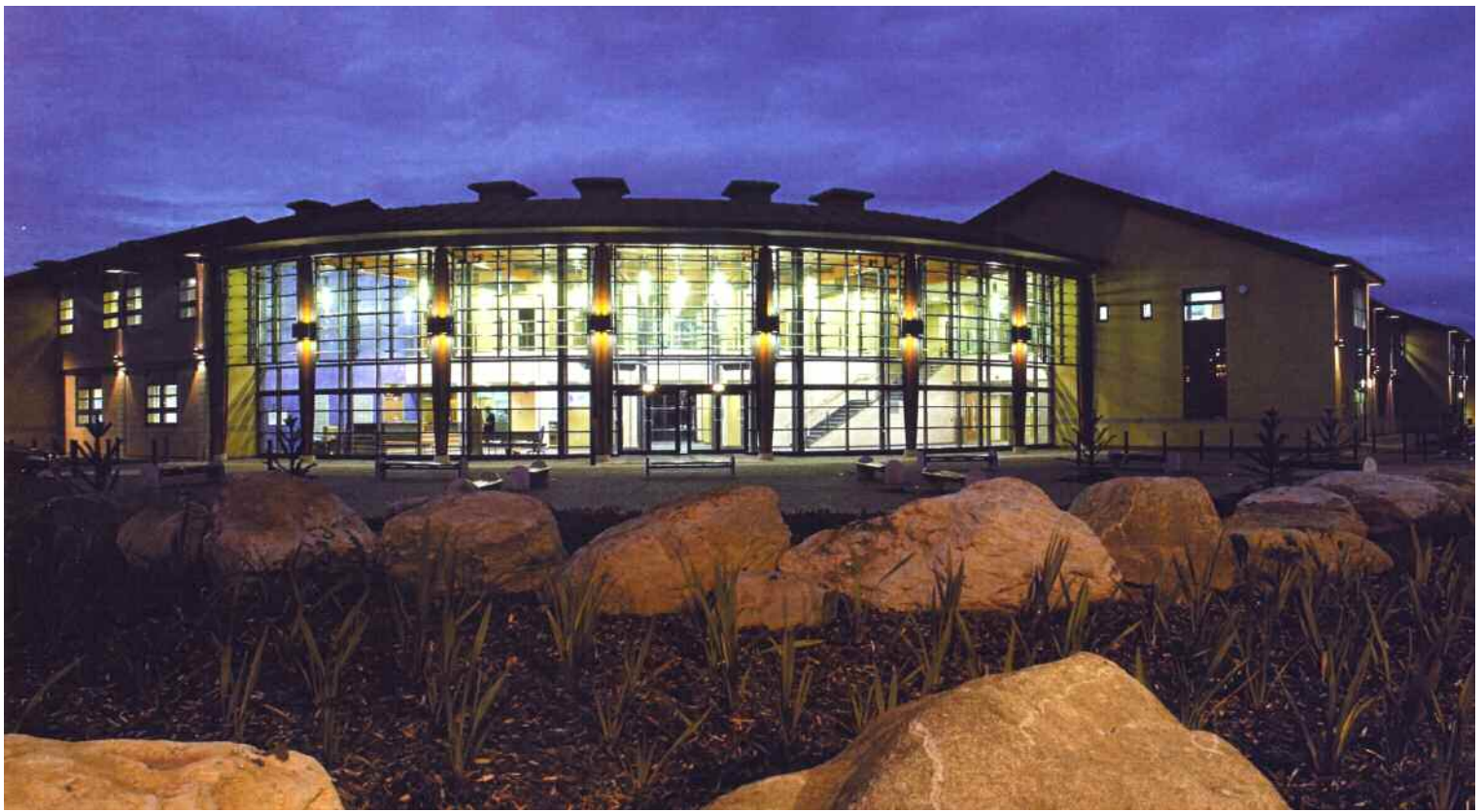
BSF is the largest strategic capital investment programme for schools in over 50 years and the most ambitious scheme of its kind anywhere in the world. It is much more than simply a buildings programme: BSF is a huge commitment that provides an opportunity to improve education by delivering schools that our young people, our teachers and our local communities deserve.

The integration of Academy delivery allows Pfs to harness the same economies of scale for the Academies programme as for other schools in the BSF programme. The procurement model – the Local Education Partnership (LEP) – specifically developed for BSF, will also provide significant savings to the Academy programme. In areas where a LEP has not been established – perhaps because the local authority has yet to enter the BSF programme – the Contractors' Framework (http://www.partnershipsforschools.org.uk/programme/process_academies_framework.jsp) enables similar efficiencies in the procurement process.

Aligning Academies more closely with BSF gives local authorities the opportunity to integrate Academies into their education vision (known as the Strategy for Change) that must be produced before receiving BSF funding. This will help local authorities to evaluate and implement a cohesive plan for the future of secondary education in their area, and will enable campus-style, cross-school working. Moving away from piecemeal, school-by-school planning to a far more strategic and holistic approach to an area's needs – and ensuring that ensuring that BSF and Academies programmes dovetail – is key to the success of both programmes.

Academy sponsors also benefit from the involvement of Pfs, as they will no longer have day-to-day responsibility for the timing, cost and quality of schools' design and construction, and they will benefit from more integrated local authority support.





A guide to the Contractors' Framework

Academies in local authorities that have yet to be prioritised for inclusion in BSF, or where the LEP will not be established in time to meet the Academy delivery targets, will be delivered using the Contractors' Framework. The Framework, which was originally launched in January 2007, can be used to design and build:

- single school projects;
- grouped school projects to be procured all at once ('bundled schemes'); and
- grouped school projects to be procured in more than one phase ('batched schemes').

The Framework supports local authorities in their role as contracting authority, providing them with national programme management, support for their local educational vision and strategy through the Strategy for Change process, a standardised delivery model offering procurement and contractual documentation, teams to provide local transaction and commercial support.

In October 2009, PFS announced the 15 companies that secured a place on the new £4 billion framework replacing the original framework launched in 2007.

The Contractors' Framework operates across two discrete geographical areas. The first area is made up of the North West, the North East, Yorkshire and the Humber, the East Midlands

and the West Midlands; the second of the East of England, the South West, the South East and London.

Nine of the 15 companies have been appointed to both geographical areas. The companies appointed to the Contractors' Framework are:

North and Midlands

- Balfour Beatty Construction
- BAM Construction
- Bovis Lend Lease
- Carillion Construction
- Clugston Construction
- Interserve Projects Services
- Kier Regional
- Shepherd Construction
- Sir Robert McAlpine
- VINCI Construction
- Wates
- Willmott Dixon

London, South and South East

- Apollo Property Services
- Balfour Beatty Construction
- BAM Construction
- Bovis Lend Lease
- Carillion Construction
- Interserve Projects Services
- JB Leadbitter & Co
- Kier Regional
- Rydon Group
- Sir Robert McAlpine
- Wates
- Willmott Dixon



Want to know more?

Further information about Academies—including details about the process and progress of the programme - can be found on the PFS website:

www.partnershipsforschools.org.uk

To contact a member of the PFS Academies team, write, telephone or email us at the following address:

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