

Dawn Butler MP

Labour MP for Brent Central

www.DawnButler.org.uk | [@DawnButlerBrent](https://twitter.com/DawnButlerBrent)

House of Commons, London SW1A 0AA | 020 7219 8591

Constituency Advice Line: 0208 451 6560



Cllr Muhammed Butt
Leader of Brent Council
Brent Civic Centre
Engineers Way
Wembley
HA9 0FJ

30/03/16

Dear Cllr Butt,

I am writing to you in regards to my concerns about the Government's proposals, announced in the Budget, to reform England's schools system by instituting the forced academisation of all schools by 2020.

The Government are claiming that the academies programme will transform education by helping to turn around struggling schools while providing the freedom for successful schools to build on their achievements even further.

In practice, however, it seems that there is little substantive evidence to show that turning a school into an academy will automatically raise standards. Ofsted chair, Sir Michael Wilshaw recently criticised seven sizeable academy chains for failing to improve the results of too many pupils in their schools.

I am concerned forced academisation will bypass consultation amongst parents, schools and communities particularly in local areas like Brent where vital ground-level knowledge is needed.

The Tories obsession with changing the school structure will do nothing to tackle the real problems facing our education system. A flawed teacher recruitment programme and retention crisis added to the widening attainment gap between poor pupils and their peers. Furthermore, I believe forced academisation will cause utter chaos for successful local schools, such as Wykeham Primary, who prove the very point that you do not need to be an academy to be a successful school.

I want us in Brent to lead a fight back and bring schools back in to local authority control. I will fight the government and ask for money to make this happen. It is important that our schools work together.

Our community is our strength

Dudden Hill | Dollis Hill | Harlesden | Kensal Green | Mapesbury | Stonebridge | Tokyngton | Welsh Harp | Willesden Green

I am committed to keeping my constituents informed on issues which may be of interest to them and my local Labour Party.
I may write to you from time to time. If you do not wish to receive any correspondence from me please write to me at the above address.

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Today I have also received letters from the Secretary of State for Education Nicky Morgan MP confirming that two further Brent schools, Oakington Manor Primary and Furness Primary, will be converted into academies, please see enclosed a copy of the letters. I hope you will share my concerns of this continued assault towards taking Brent schools out of Brent control.

Academies do not automatically equate to good schools.

I hope we can discuss this matter further, and I look forward to your reply.

Yours sincerely,



Dawn Butler MP

Labour Member of Parliament for Brent Central

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