

New UK Government fast tracks 'Free' schools

More than 720 groups in the UK signed up for the new 'free' schools scheme made up of teachers in deprived parts of the country and parents who have few or no local schools in their areas.

David Edis-Bates 19 June 2010

Planning laws in the UK are being torn up by the new Government so that hundreds of teachers and parents can set up their own "state-funded independent school" in shops and houses, Education Secretary, Michael Gove, announced on Friday 18th June 2010.

Gove said at least 720 groups of teachers, parents and charities had expressed an interest in establishing the schools that will be run as academies.

Gove reported that half the groups that have shown interest are made up of teachers in deprived parts of the country, while many others are parents who have few or no local schools in their neighbourhoods.

Several faith communities have also expressed an interest.

The first schools are likely to open in September 2011.

Local authorities' planning teams will be told that the creation of the schools, to be run outside local authority control, are a priority,

Gove pledged £50m to stimulate growth in the schools between now and next March. The money has been taken from funds to help schools buy computer equipment.

This will open up opportunities for the supply of new equipment into these schools whilst slowing down the replacement of old ICT equipment in existing schools, the emphasis has been made on improved teaching in smaller classes using space "imaginatively" rather than spending on facilities.

About the Author

Compiled from several news reports. David Edis-Bates, C.Eng MIET has spent more than 30 years in export related activities around the world, lived in Taiwan for 4 years in the 70's and in China for the past 5 years. He also taught part time in further education for several years in the UK and is currently CEO [Edis Trading \(HK\) Limited](#) who design and manufacture audio visual products mostly for the education markets around the world.

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