

Frequently Asked Questions – Foundation Status

Can you give us practical examples of the impact on pupil progress?

S Dartmoor College – Ofsted May 2010 'The College makes outstanding use of its partnerships to promote learning and well-being. For example, work with the University of Exeter has enhanced the school's high quality professional development programme and enabled staff and students to develop their own 'Educational Research in the Classroom' (ERIC). As a result, the quality of teaching is improving as a dialogue of effective learning and classroom practice is developed and shared more widely'.

Windsor High School – Ofsted Dec 2008 'Partnerships, notably through the Halesowen Education Trust, broaden the curriculum to provide an impressive range of different pathways for pupils, and recent developments through the vocational specialism augment these well'.

What are the advantages / disadvantages of running a Foundation school?

As far as buildings and other facilities are concerned, heads and governors seem to value the fact that they can integrate the development of the building into their own vision for the school to a greater degree than they perceived they were able to do before. They also control the use of buildings and this allows them both to raise funds directly and, again, to tailor the activities to the ethos of the school.

Access to major investment is still in the hands of the local authority and so it is normal to find close cooperation between the school and property services. However, it is the feeling that the school has the initiative that once more seems to be important.