

Are the new free schools a disaster waiting to happen or an excellent success story?

Free schools. You might be wondering what are they? A free school is partly funded by a business, university or religious group. However it is mainly funded by the government. These schools started in 2010 in March by the academy's act 2010.



The number of schools that applied were 325. 115 were from faith groups. 408 free schools are now currently open and 500 are planned within 5 years.

Despite, the apparent opinion that the schools are beneficial there are critics' that have explained that their presence that it could create a tier system about what people go to which schools. And the government have no control at all where the schools should be. So there promises that poorer areas are getting the schools may not happen at all. As well as new schools some people think the government has not thought about the existing schools that need investment to keep them open.

Fact box

“255 free schools currently open.

163 approved or open free schools are secondary's.

154 approved or open free schools are primaries.

190 approved or open free schools are in London and the south east.”

Source Dfe, Conservatives. BBC News Website

Teresa May is planning to put 320 million pounds into her new free school project by 2020. One watchdog says, “the government is all ready spending 60% more then market value.” One example is when a building was purchased for 7.6 million pounds however, it was only valued at 3 million 6 months earlier.

What is the budget for free schools?

There was 50 million pounds in April 2011 and then another 600 million pounds put in on November 2011.

I asked some actual school students about free schools. One said:

“Parents who have not a lot of money can get a good education for their children. And the government can spend it on something worthwhile. They should spend 300 million pounds by 2020. The information of the ministers and how Ofsted inspect the schools should be published openly.”

Another year 8 boy said:“ Yes and no it helps children's education and makes a better life. No because you see a lot of people on the streets and they could use the money for social housing and to help them get them back up on their feet. The budget should be at least 250 million pounds by 2020. They should spend it on schools that are struggling to purchase the equipment needed. There should be 150 million pounds on existing schools. They should go with the areas that struggle with money.”

A year 8 girl said: “They should be built in poorer areas because they are funded with areas which have more areas. 500 million pounds should be spent on the free school project by 2020. The people who go to the schools should be a mixture of rich and poor. The schools should not be allowed to make any money from the schools.

Another year 8 girl said: “For people to have a good education it is priceless. However to put a price on it would be 400 million pounds by 2020. They should be built in poorer areas where the local government does not have enough money.”

“Another year 8 boy said: “1 million pounds should be spent on the free school. They should be where a space is. They should be in poorer areas. Part of the profit should be put into the school and to pay off the loan to purchase the school.”

There is a lot of controversy about them and how well they will go. We will never know until it is implemented however people feel that the schools have to put the money back into the schools themselves instead of the rich directors boards. Written by Adam