

## EDUCATION

# Academy freedoms 'ineffectual'

By Richard Vaughan

Almost half of academy leaders in England believe the freedoms associated with their school status have had either no effect or a negative impact in the classroom, according to a poll.

Academies have greater control over curriculum, school budgets, admissions and

teachers' pay than state-funded schools. They are funded directly by Whitehall.

But a survey by the National Foundation for Educational Research on behalf of the Sutton Trust charity showed of the sample of 143 academy leaders, 30 per cent said their powers had "no effect" in the classroom, while 18 per cent said they had a "negative effect".

**48%**

of academy leaders believe their institutions' freedoms had no positive effect