

EDUCATION

Academy chains 'fail poorer pupils'

By Nina Massey

Two-thirds of academy chains perform below average for disadvantaged pupils, analysis suggests.

Research from the Sutton Trust indicates that disadvantaged pupils in 38 of the 58 chains analysed performed below the national average last year for all state schools. Twelve of the 58 saw poorer pupils reach above the national average on key measures of attainment.

The research analysed the performance of those entitled to the pupil premium in 2017. The report

urged Regional Schools Commissioners to act more decisively with chains that do not deliver improvement over time for disadvantaged children.

Geoff Barton, general secretary of the Association of School and College Leaders, said: "Many multi-academy trusts take on schools which have been judged by Ofsted as inadequate, which are likely to have results that are below-average."

A Department for Education spokeswoman, said: "Converting to become an academy is a positive choice made by hundreds of schools every year."