

Value for Money Statement

Organisation name: Great Smeaton Academy Primary School

Company number: 7730938

Year ended 31 August 2014

I accept that as accounting officer of Great Smeaton Academy Primary School I am responsible and accountable for ensuring that the academy trust delivers good value in the use of public resources. I am aware of the guide to academy value for money statements published by the Education Funding Agency and understand that value for money refers to the educational and wider societal outcomes achieved in return for the taxpayer resources received.

I set out below how I have ensured that the academy trust's use of its resources has provided good value for money during the academic year.

The governing body is accountable for the way in which the school's resources are allocated to meet the objectives set out in the school's development plans. Governors need to secure the best possible outcome for pupils, in the most efficient and effective way, at a reasonable cost. This will lead to continuous improvement in the school's achievements and services

Governors will apply the four principles of best value:

Challenge -Is the school's performance high enough? Why and how is a service provided? Do we still need it? Can it be delivered differently? What do parents want?

Compare -How does the school's pupil performance and financial performance compare with all schools? How does it compare with LEA schools? How does it compare with similar schools?

Consult - How does the school seek the views of stakeholders about the services the school provides?

Compete - How does the school secure efficient and effective services? Are services of appropriate quality, economic?

The Governors' Approach

The Governors and School Leaders will apply the principles of best value when making decisions about:

- the allocation of resources to best promote the aims and values of the school.

the targeting of resources to best improve standards and the quality of provision.

the use of resources to best support the various educational needs of all pupils.

Governors, and the school managers, will:

make comparisons with other/similar schools using data provided by the LEA, our accountants and the Government, e.g. benchmarking tools, quality of teaching & learning, levels of expenditure
challenge proposals, examining them for effectiveness, efficiency, and cost, e.g. setting of annual pupil achievement targets

require suppliers to compete on grounds of cost, and quality/suitability of services/products/backup

consult individuals and organisations on quality/suitability of service we provide to parents and pupils, and services we receive from providers, e.g. pupil reports, OFSTED, finance consultants, LEA Energy Unit, bulk purchasing providers and local suppliers.

This will apply in particular to:

staffing
use of resources
quality of teaching
quality of learning
purchasing
pupils' welfare
health and safety

Governors and school managers:

will not waste time and resources on investigating minor areas where few improvements can be achieved
will not waste time and resources to make minor savings in costs
will not waste time and resources by seeking tenders for minor supplies and services;
where the pursuit of minor improvements or savings is not cost effective if the administration involves substantial time or costs. Time wasted on minor improvements or savings can also distract management from more important or valuable areas.

Staffing

Governors and school management will deploy staff to provide best value in terms of quality of teaching, quality of learning, adult-pupil ratio, and curriculum management.

Use of Premises

Governors and school management will consider the allocation and use of teaching areas, support areas and communal areas, to provide the best environment for teaching and learning, for support services, and for communal access to central resources, e.g. the library.

Use of Resources

Governors and school management will deploy equipment, materials and services to provide pupils and staff with resources which support quality of teaching and quality of learning.

Teaching

Governors and school management will review the quality of curriculum provision and quality of teaching, to provide parents and pupils with:

a curriculum which meets the requirements of the National Curriculum, National Literacy Strategy and National Numeracy Strategy and the needs of pupils

teaching which builds on previous learning and has high expectations of children's achievement

Learning

Governors and school management will review the quality of children's learning, by cohort, class and group, to provide teaching which enables children to achieve nationally expected progress, e.g. setting of annual pupil achievement targets and striving to improve on or maintain previous years exam results and attendance.

Purchasing

Governors and school management will develop procedures for assessing need, and obtaining goods and services which provide "best value" in terms of suitability, efficiency, time, and cost. Measures already in place include:

competitive tendering procedures (e.g. for goods and services above £3,000)

three quotes for goods and services in excess of £249.99

procedures for accepting "best value" quotes, which are not necessarily the cheapest (e.g. suitability for purpose and quality of workmanship)

procedures which minimise office time by the purchase of goods or services under £100 direct from known, reliable suppliers (e.g. stationery, small equipment)

Pupils' Welfare

Governors and school management will review the quality of the school environment and the school ethos, in order to provide a supportive environment conducive to learning and recreation.

Health & Safety

Governors and school management will review the quality of the school environment and equipment, carrying out risk assessments where appropriate, in order to provide a safe working environment for pupils, staff and visitors.

Monitoring

These areas will be monitored for best value by:

In-house monitoring by the Headteacher and external moderators e.g. classroom practice, work sampling

Termly target setting meetings between the Headteacher and class teachers

Staff Appraisals

Annual Budget Planning

Headteacher's regular finance review

Visits by our financial advisers

Analysis's of school pupil performance data against similar LEA schools and Analysis of LEA financial data against bench mark data for similar schools
Analysis of DCFS pupil performance data
OFSTED Inspection reports
Governors' termly committee meetings
Governors' full termly meetings
Governors' Annual Finance Review
Governors' Annual SATs Target Setting Meeting

In the next three years the Governing Body will:

hold an annual performance plan meeting to set targets for improving pupil achievement.
hold an annual development plan meeting at its first meeting of the Autumn Term.
discuss "Best Value" at each Autumn Term meeting of the Finance Committee.
review their "Best Value" statement at each Spring Term meeting.
consider best value when arranging internal and external maintenance contracts.
ensure that school management consider best value when renewing contracts.

Name: Mrs Anne Ashworth
Academy Trust Accounting Officer

Date: 18 Dec 2014