

Value for Money Statement

Academy trust name: St Gilbert's Church of England Primary Academy

Academy trust company number: 8321824

Year ended 31 August 2014

I accept that as accounting officer of St Gilbert's Church of England Primary Academy 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 Academy is committed to:

Improving Educational Outcomes

Targeted Improvement

The Academy employed a teacher to focus on pupils in receipt of pupil premium resulting in higher learning gains at the end of KS2 2014. This targeted support included 1:1 tuition as well as group support.

Focus on individual pupils

The academy reviewed and implemented new procedures to track and target all groups of pupils. In addition to this the academy improved its staff reviews of pupils progress ensuring all key staff attended, ensuring closely targeted intervention for pupils as required. The academy also ensured the Pupil Premium Grant was used to target pupils in line with its policy resulting in very good outcomes at the end of KS2. Pupils demonstrating progress beyond expectations were challenged through differentiated planning and expected outcomes. Training for staff ensured that this was closely tailored to need particularly at Level 6.

Collaboration

The academy worked alongside a local secondary academy to support the attainment of Level 6 which resulted in 9% of pupils attaining this standard in Mathematics which met the national average. The school also works closely with another secondary school, enhancing education through Drama, Science and Modern Foreign Language Workshops. The academy has also continued the enhancement activities collaborating with Sport, Music and MFL agencies to provide a greater breadth to pupil learning. The academy has also increased its level of training for staff, ensuring we remain up to date with a fast moving educational environment including the new assessment and curriculum expectations. The academy is also collaborating with an IT company to provide activities in line with the new Computing Curriculum during and after school.

New Initiatives

New initiatives are costed into the SDP and budgeted for. The academy dedicated a three year financial package to the development of IT, improving the pupils' exposure in all areas of the curriculum. The academy also brought their website up to date, utilising the skills of the Governing Body alongside the leadership of the school. The re-modernising of areas of the school has led to a more productive and vibrant learning environment moving the academy forwards against OFSTED expectations.

Quantifying Improvements

The focus on good and better progress across the academy at KS2 has led to improved outcomes for pupils especially those in receipt of Pupil Premium and SEN.

Absence figures are well below the national average. Due to the astute financial decision making, the academy finances resulted in an in-year surplus

Financial Governance and oversight

The Academy is fortunate to have Governors with a strong financial background. Budget monitoring reports, including financial forecast outturns and narratives are prepared by the Academy Business Manager and Headteacher and presented for discussion with the Finance Committee and Full Governing Body. The Academy is on a sound financial footing and follows strict DfE financial guidelines. All financial decisions are based on providing 'Value for Money' quality provision and prioritizing this to levels of funding available and expected over a five year forecast. Key budget allocations and spending decisions are all linked to the School Development Plan.

Purchasing

The Academy Business Manager always applies Best Value to all purchases and will provide three quotes for discussion i.e. the EYFS classrooms. The Academy Business Manager will research companies that provide best value quotes and also get references from other academies.

Fitness for Purpose

Contracts are renegotiated or not renewed if they prove not to be good value for money to ensure quality effectiveness e.g. Grounds Maintenance

Options appraisal

The academy carefully considers all options available before any major investments are made. Discussions are held with the Finance Committee and decisions are made collectively e.g. IT development

Economies of Scale

The academy is an Eco Academy, receiving its fifth green flag this year. This academy monitors all expenditure on energy consumption, recycling and reducing waste and procurement.

Better income generation

The academy explores every opportunity to generate income through the hire of facilities. Income is also generated from small grant applications which help support the wider curriculum.

Reviewing controls and managing risks

- The school keeps a regular overview of its finances and details reports to governors. The named 'responsible officer' met regularly with the School Business Manager and the Head Teacher.
- The school employs a firm of External Financial Auditors and follows all DfE financial monitoring, checking and reporting procedures very rigorously.
- These reports are challenged by Governance and further analysis is carried out if required.
- Planned budgets are presented to Governors, challenged and agreed e.g. the development of the newly refurbished Foundation Stage or the IT plan. All this has been possible through careful strategic planning and income generation through bids and grants.
- The trustees agree the budget each year and are very mindful of its responsibilities. The trust also received and approved the Annual accounts and the external Auditors Management Report which finds the academy in a positive position financially and on an excellent footing to drive further academy improvement.

Lessons learned

The Academy regularly reviews its SDP and revises its key priorities and planned expenditure to maximise the development of the school using best value.

Signed: Miss F Dicker

Academy Trust Accounting Officer

Date: 11th December 2014