

Value for Money Statement

Organisation name: Lickhill Primary School

Company number: 7806338

Year ended 31 August 2014

I accept that as accounting officer of Lickhill 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.

Educational Results

In February 2013 Lickhill Primary was inspected and judged to be outstanding in every category.

At the end of Key Stage 2 attainment in reading and mathematics was broadly in line with national expectations and was significantly higher in writing. Across the school pupils make outstanding progress over time, because teaching is outstanding. This has been achieved through careful investment in staff training and development. The focus of staff training has been largely targeted at raising standards in writing across the school and there is clear impact of this focus in pupil achievement in writing.

This year we have increased levels of support staff so that we can provide challenging learning opportunities for identified groups of pupils, including vulnerable children, SEND, GRT and the more able pupils. Many of our pupils benefit from small group or individual intervention programmes with targeted outcomes. These are closely monitored through pupil progress meetings. In addition, increased staffing has enabled us to increase the quality and range of PE opportunities, using the Primary School Sport Funding. In the last academic year the pupils for whom we receive Pupil Premium and SEND pupils made progress that exceeded the progress of all pupils nationally.

We have increasing numbers of vulnerable children attending school. The trust has invested in training for staff that enables the school to run our Thrive Project. This project works to support all pupils in making good emotional and social development. It also works specifically with any pupils exhibiting challenging behaviours so that we can develop their stress management systems and social skills and are therefore, in a state of readiness for learning. Our assessments show that pupils on this programme are demonstrating dramatically increased levels of social and emotional development and engagement with learning. The Headteacher is an accredited lead trainer for Thrive. The impact of this work and the very positive response of parents was reported in our latest Ofsted Inspection.

The school works collaboratively with many organisations to spread best practice. The Headteacher is a Local Leader in Education and a Professional Partner for new Headteachers. In these capacities, several schools have received support. In addition, the Deputy Head has led staff curriculum development training in several schools. The school is also a strategic partner in the Stourport High School Teaching School and takes a leading role in the development of mathematics, phonics and art in the school based initial teacher training.

Financial Governance and Oversight

The school holds monthly meetings of its finance committee who report back to the whole governing body. In these meetings, financial decisions are discussed. Minutes of meetings demonstrate that the Governors hold the school to account over financial decisions and challenge spending decisions, where appropriate. Rigorous systems are in place to ensure strong financial controls and security.

Better Purchasing

The trust has renegotiated Service Level Agreements with Worcestershire Local Authority and other independent providers, thus ensuring the services provided are fit for purpose and cost effective.

Better Income Generation

Additional income is gained through the management of a Pre-School, Holiday Club and Before and After School

Care provision. The rapidly growing demand for these services has seen the income increase year upon year. Further income is generated through providing School to School support through Local Leader work and outreach training.

Reviewing Controls and Managing Risks

The Academy has established robust, segregation of duties within financial control. The Academy carries out regular financial monitoring with School Business Support and reports to the Finance Committee on a regular basis. Following the resignation of the Academy's Finance Governor, the Academy is reviewing the monthly accounts with the support of Worton Rock. Governors challenge decision makers within the trust on the cost and effectiveness of spending proposals in order to achieve value for money.

Lessons Learned

The trust is actively seeking to work more collaboratively with other schools for procurement of supplies and services, in order to achieve greater economies of scale. An example of this is our procurement of Broadband services.

Signed:

Name:

Academy Trust Accounting Officer

Date:

Name: Mrs Helen Davies

Academy Trust Accounting Officer

Date: 15 Dec 2014