

Value For Money Statement

Academy Trust Name: Richmond Hill Primary Academy

Academy Trust Company Number: 8820308

Year ended 31 August 2014

I accept that as accounting officer of **Richmond Hill Primary Academy** I am responsible and accountable for ensuring that the Academy 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 turn for the taxpayer resources received.

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

Improving Educational Results

We have ensured that resources are directed where they are most needed and most effective in meeting education requirements, for example by:-

Targeting resources in line with the School Improvement Plan priorities including:

- Developing new staff Performance Review and Appraisal processes for effective monitoring of performance
- Developing the assessment, tracking and monitoring processes to ensure data is used to inform planning, target interventions and support differentiation. To inform Senior Leadership Team and Board of Director meetings to review pupil progress and impact of interventions for different groups of pupils and standards of the Academy

Delegated leadership of Support Staff

- Recruitment of Inclusion Manager to work alongside the SLT to formulate and implement a whole Academy strategy to identify pupils who would benefit from mentoring and to support a successful transfer and transition at key stages.
- As Reading was identified as a key focus area to develop the Academy has recruited a Reading Manager to work alongside the SLT to ensure reading teaching, training and resources are of the best quality for delivering outstanding lessons

Delegated Leadership

- Recruitment of Vice Principals and Assistant Principals to further embed leadership throughout the Academy
- Professional development for Early Years Foundation Stage staff, KS1 and KS2 staff to implement the new curriculum and assessment processes
- Review the staffing structure to ensure staff are efficiently deployed and are appropriately qualified and experienced specialists and enthusiasts
- Supporting another school raise standards
- Supporting positive networking across schools

The effectiveness of these strategies can be seen in improved pupil outcomes, staff observations and outcomes of the new curriculum.

Financial Governance and Oversight

Our governance arrangements include regular monitors by the Board of Directors and its committees, including the Business Committee and Audit Committee.

- Board of Directors receive regular financial reports to enable regular monitoring to ensure Value for Money and Directors ask relevant and challenging questions as evidenced in the minutes
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- The work of committees is further informed by regular Responsible Officer reports following monitoring visits undertaken by a Partner from Duncan & Toplis Accountants, along with on-going termly support from Rotherham Council Finance Department.
- Academy spending is benchmarked against other Academies and areas where we significantly over or under spend have been thoroughly investigated and assurances provided that the expense is appropriate to our school
- The Assistant Principal (non-curriculum) has been influential in driving down costs through better procurement and negotiation throughout 2014 along with a successful EFA Condition Improvement Grant awarded for Life Safety and Safeguarding Works
- The Academy has clear budget headings and defined spending amounts. Above which three quotations are obtained. All services and contracts are negotiated and this ensures that fitness for purpose is obtained in collaboration with our Facilities Management adviser
- Purchase options are considered both in relation to short and long term benefits, competitive tendering is employed
- The benefits of economics of scale are pursued where possible
- The academy carefully monitors Pupil Premium expenditure and its impact on improving attainment for students on Free School Meals and Looked After Children. Use of this grant and its effectiveness is published annually on the academy website

Examples of steps taken to ensure value for money when purchasing include

- Exploring alternative purchasing options both on-line and direct through suppliers to find the best value
- Working with other local schools in partnership to identify products and services that can be procured across a number of schools in order to drive down cost and/or negotiate favourable rates e.g. assessment data system, curriculum training, safeguarding training
- Implementing a tender process for significant purchases and/or contracts, for example cleaning contract
- All contracts are reviewed on an annual basis to ensure they are fit for purpose and best value.

Better Income Generation

Example of steps to maximise include:

- Hosting trainee teachers including School Direct, and PGCE placements
- Letting of school premises i.e. Slimming World, local football teams
- School staff providing consultancy services to other local schools
- Principal is a Ofsted inspector – fees from inspections are brought back to the Academy
- EFA Condition Improvement Grant has been awarded for Life Safety and Safeguarding Works

Reviewing Controls and Managing Risk

Regular budget reports have been reviewed by the Business and Audit Committees. This has ensured that spending is within budget and forward plans are agreed and implemented when there has been any variance.

Actions taken to manage risk include the purchase of an appropriate level of insurance cover. Professional advice (for example from the HR service providers) has also been sought when needed.

Future Objectives

We recognise the need to continue developing relationships with other academies and/or local schools in order to benefit from economies of scale in procuring products and services, developing staff and sharing knowledge, skill and expertise

Signed..........

Name **Jill Foster**

Academy Accounting Officer

Date **1 December 2014**