

Value for Money Statement [DRAFT]

Organisation name: Jubilee Park Academy Trust

Company number: 8591050

Year ended 31 August 2014

I accept that as accounting officer of Jubilee Park Academy Trust 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.

Improving Educational Results

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

- Targeting resources in line with the School Improvement Plan (SIP) priorities, including:
 - Professional development for Learning Support staff to effectively support pupils with identified needs and make accurate judgements about their attainment and next steps of learning.
 - Recruitment and redeployment of Learning Support staff to narrow the achievement gap between pupils from disadvantaged backgrounds against their peers. Also, half termly moderation of data by the Senior Leadership team and pupil progress meetings held with staff to measure impact and review intervention and support for all and identified pupils. Senior leadership teachers deployed as additional support in end of key stage classes to raise the attainment for targeted groups of pupils.
 - Professional development for Early Years Foundation Stage staff to implement the new curriculum and assessment processes through moderation events with local schools.
 - Professional development for middle leaders in collaboration with local schools in order to raise the quality of provision across the curriculum and to enhance teaching and learning strategies used in class to accelerate the learning of pupils across the curriculum.
 - Provision of a Sports Mentor and specialist sports teacher in order to enhance teachers' skills and delivery of high quality PE to all pupils.
 - Developing improved assessment, tracking and monitoring processes which hold all staff to account for pupil performance and relate it to curriculum and assessment changes from September 2014.
 - Developing new staff Performance Review and Appraisal processes for effective monitoring of performance.
 - Learning mentor and PSA deployed to target support for vulnerable pupils by engaging parents and ensuring safeguarding practices. Interventions implemented with parents and pupils to maintain and accelerate standards for these pupils and safeguard their learning and development.
 - Collaborative working with local schools to source support from a: lead attendance officer; lead safeguarding officer and behaviour support specialist in order to enhance the practice of safeguarding procedures for the high percentage of disadvantaged pupils across the school.

The effectiveness of these strategies can be seen in improved pupil outcomes for all groups, staff observations and preparations for delivery of a new curriculum and assessment arrangements.

Financial Governance and Oversight

Regular budget monitoring reports are provided to Governors. These are presented to the Finance Committee (by the academy's financial service providers), and include a current and two year budget forecast. This enables the trust to plan for the future, both in relation to its staffing structure; maintenance of its premises and the purchase of resources. Governors refer to the academy's Best Value Statement, which is reviewed on an annual basis and sets out the approach to providing Value for Money.

Better Purchasing

Purchasing procedures are in place to ensure that the academy obtains value for money, by seeking comparative costs from suppliers. The academy obtains quotes in line with its Finance Policy and for larger amounts follows the procedures in its Tendering Policy. Where written quotes are received, an analysis is provided to the Finance

Committee which enables a decision to be made after consideration of costs and benefits.

Significant expenditure during the academic year was on an IT re-refresh for the whole school - including its ICT suite, which pupils are able to use both during the day and as part of an afterschool / homework club. This was taken up on a 3 year operating lease. Quotes were received (as per tendering policy) and professional outside advice sought before a decision was made by the Finance Committee.

As an ongoing process, the Academy will identify areas of expenditure e.g. contracts / insurances / service level agreements to review and consider for best value. For example, in 2013/14 savings were made on Staff Absence Insurance of approx. 50% compared to 2012/2013.

During 2013/2014 - the Academy worked in partnership with a group of schools in the local area, which enabled it to take advantage of services procured across a group e.g. the provision of an Education Welfare Officer, who worked alongside the Academy's Attendance Officer and Parent Support Officer to support on a variety of attendance and welfare issues. The academy strives to maintain its 97.3 % level of attendance throughout the year, together with the level of support it provides to parents, covering a range of welfare issues.

The Academy continues to work in partnership with schools within the local area.

Reviewing Controls and Managing Risks

The system of internal control is based on an on-going process designed to identify and prioritise the risks to the achievement of academy trust policies, aims and objectives, to evaluate the likelihood of those risks being realised and the impact should they be realised, and to manage them effectively and economically. The system of internal control has been in place in the Academy for the period 1st July 2013 to 31st August 2014. Governors review its risk management policy on an annual basis.

Alongside the regular budget monitoring reports provided (as noted above), Governors also received a Responsible Officer Report which enabled them to make informed decisions regarding their review of internal financial controls

Future Objectives:

The trust recognises 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, which may also generate income.

Name: Miss Svinder Rana
Academy Trust Accounting Officer

Date: 10 Dec 2014