

VALUE FOR MONEY STATEMENT 2013

Introduction

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

I accept that as Accounting Officer of Knightsfield 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 taxpayers 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 to August 2013.

Value for Money (VfM) is defined as the relationship between economy, efficiency and effectiveness.

The Audit Commission defines these as:

Economy – assesses the costs of the resources used

Effectiveness – assesses the impact of spend by reviewing outcomes

Efficiency – assesses productivity. That is how much you get out for what you put in.

Achieving VfM means achieving a balance between all three. This is consistent with the duty of Best Value placed on the Academy.

What is Best Value?

Governors 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 student performance and financial performance compare with all 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 and Senior Leadership Team 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 students.

The Academy Trust is committed to:

1. Raising student attainment

Knightsfield School was judged outstanding overall in its last Ofsted inspection in January 2010 as the predecessor school and also in the previous inspection in 2007.

Pupils joining the school in Year 7 do not have the same starting points as those in mainstream schools as a result of the impact of their hearing loss on their learning and progress. GCSE results have been maintained at the same level for a number of years of 20 – 22% 5 or more grade A*–C.

Results for 2012/13:

33% of pupils achieved 5 or more A* – C grades.

17% of pupils achieved 5 or more A* – C including English and Maths.

100% of pupils achieved 5 or more A* – G.

These results compare favourably with those of other schools for the deaf nationally.

100% Post 16 students achieved BTEC qualifications followed at Oaklands College supported by staff from Knightsfield School.

Knightsfield School and Specialist Academy has developed tracking systems for individual pupils that track levels of progress from Key Stage 2 through to the end of Key Stage 4. This tracking system allows identification of pupils and students who are not achieving their targets so that additional support strategies can be put in place to support their progress. In 2012/13 67% of pupils made 3 or more levels of progress from KS2 to KS4 in 5 or more subjects.

2. Robust governance and oversight of Academy Trust finances

The Academy benefits from the provision by Hillier Hopkins LLP of a responsible officer service. This reviews key financial policies, systems and procedures and presents reports on compliance to the Governing Body.

The Resources Committee receives termly budget monitoring reports and management accounts and reviews these. The full Governing Body approves the budget each year and is mindful of the need to balance expenditure against income to ensure the Academy Trust remains a 'going concern'. The Governing Body also receives, reviews and approves the Annual Accounts and responds to issues raised in the External Auditors Management Reports on the financial statements and on regularity.

3. Ensuring the operation of the Trust demonstrates good value for money and efficient and effective use of resources

Staff are deployed to provide best value in terms of quality of teaching, quality of learning and curriculum management.

The allocation and use of teaching areas, support areas and communal areas are carefully considered to provide the best environment for teaching and learning

Equipment, materials and services are deployed to provide pupils, students and staff with resources which support a high quality of teaching and learning.

Governors and the Senior Leadership Team have procedures for assessing need, and obtaining goods and services which provide “best value” in terms of suitability, efficiency, time, and cost. Measures in place include:

- competitive tendering procedures (e.g. for goods and services above £50,000)
- three quotes for goods and services in excess of £10,000
- 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 £1,000 direct from known, reliable suppliers (e.g. stationery, small equipment).

4. Reviewing controls and managing risks

Monthly budget monitoring reports are produced by the School Business Manager and reviewed by myself as Headteacher. Any necessary remedial action is taken to address any significant variances that may have an impact on the budget out-turn.

The governors have agreed a risk register which details all the potential financial and business risks and puts measures in place to minimise the implications of these.

Monitoring

These areas will be monitored for lessons learned and best value by:

- In-house monitoring by the Senior Leadership Team and Subject Leaders, e.g. classroom practice, work sampling
- Target setting meetings between the Leadership Team and Subject Leaders
- Annual Performance Management
- Annual Budget Planning (including submitting the ‘Value for Money’ statement.
- School Development Plan
- Regular visits by the accountants to carry out audits
- Analysis of school pupil performance data against similar schools
- Analysis of DfE pupil performance data
- Ofsted Inspection reports
- Governors’ visits
- Governors’ meetings (full and committee) including; a review of ‘Best Value’ at appropriate points in the year and reviewing this ‘Value for Money’ statement in the Autumn Term.
- Accessibility of information to parents.

Mrs L M Leith
Academy Trust Accounting Officer

Date 14th November 2013