

Value for Money Statement

Academy trust name: St Martin's Academy

Academy trust company number: 08203228

Year ended 31 August 2014

I accept that as accounting officer of St Martin's 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 education and wider social outcomes achieved in return for the taxpayer resources the school has 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:

Governors and senior members of staff 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 education provision;
- The use of resources to best support the various educational needs of all students.

The Governors interpret value for money as ensuring the maximum return for the resource applied whether it is financial resources expended or time spent by staff and management on a particular activity.

The Governors represent a broad cross-section of the community and include experienced educationalists, business people and community leaders who challenge the senior management team to enable and facilitate the highest educational standards within our school.

Educational Performance

Our school welcomed the first twenty five pupils into reception class in September 2013. We target performance at an individual pupil level ensuring that every pupil excels. This is done by providing tailored support to individual pupils at the top and the bottom of the ability spectrum alike ensuring that every child, without exception, excels and that we will obtain outstanding results when they leave the academy.

Staffing and Curriculum

Governors and senior members of staff deploy staff to achieve best value in terms of quality of teaching, quality of learning, adult student ratio and curriculum management.

Governors and senior members of staff review the quality of curriculum provision and quality of teaching, to provide students with a curriculum which meets the requirements of the curriculum set by the school and the needs of the students and to provide teaching which builds on previous learning and has high expectations for students' achievement.

Financial Performance

School Construction

Construction of the main school building commenced in the autumn of 2013. I am pleased to report that the school was completed on time and on budget. It was formally opened in September 2014.

Bought in goods and services

St Martin's Academy is a small school with a limited revenue budget. The Governors intend to maintain small class sizes to maximise the educational experience of each pupil. Obtaining value for money is essential and critical to the Academy financial strategy.

Governors and senior members of staff have procedures in place for assessing need and obtaining goods and services by which provide "best value" in terms of suitability, efficiency, time and cost these include:

- A competitive tendering procedure for goods and services above £25,000,
- two written quotes for goods and services between £6,000 and £25,000,
- tender exercises are undertaken to ensure that high-value contracts are assessed against the marketplace to ensure the long-term contracts (3 to 5 years) remain competitive,
- procedures for accepting "best value" quotes which are not necessarily the cheapest (e.g. suitability for purpose and quality of workmanship).

Governors require that senior management negotiate all material supply contracts directly with suppliers. Wherever possible, annual contracts are negotiated with recommended local businesses. This strategy maximises quality and level of service at an acceptable financial and operational cost.

Annual Budget

The governors and senior members of staff consider the allocation and use of staff and resources in the form of teaching areas, support areas and communal areas to provide the best environment for teaching and learning, for support services, and for communal access to central resources.

This is used to prepare the annual budget in line with the needs identified within the school development plan.

This is monitored on a regular basis by the finance and resources committee with detailed financial statements discussed.

In this way the Governors and senior members of staff deploy staff, equipment, materials and services to provide students and staff the resources required to give the best possible quality of teaching and learning.

Income generation

The Academy promotes links with the local community and other schools to actively pursue income generation from its assets.

Other matters

Student welfare

Governors and senior members of staff review the quality of the school environment and school ethos in order to provide a supportive environment conducive to learning and recreation.

Health and safety

Governors and senior members of staff review the quality of the school environment and equipment carrying out risk assessments where appropriate in order to provide a safe working environment for students, staff and visitors.

Performance Monitoring

Regular performance monitoring of best value takes place covering not just financial performance but also operational performance including:

- In house by the leadership team and by other senior members of staff e.g. through classroom practice and work sampling,
- by target setting meetings between members of the leadership team and other senior members of staff,
- In annual review meetings,

- In the annual budget planning process and the preparation of the annual accounts,
- In the school development plan,
- Through the analysis of in-house team performance data including pupil assessments,
- In classroom observations,
- In governing body meetings (Full governing body committee meetings),
- By providing information to parents via the school website and newsletters.

Signed

Wenda Smith

Academy Trust Accounting Officer

23 December 2014