

Value for Money Statement

Organisation name: Webster Primary School

Company number: 8403949

Year ended 31 August 2014

I accept that as accounting officer of Webster 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.

The governing body acknowledges its responsibilities and accountability for the way in which the school's resources are allocated to meet the objectives set out in the school's development plan. Governors seek to secure the best possible outcome for pupils, in the most efficient and effective way at a Best Value cost. This leads to continuous improvement in the school's achievements and services. Throughout 2013-14 the four principles of Best Value were applied :-Challenging, Comparing, Consulting and Competing.

The Governors' and School Managers applied the principles of Best Value when making decisions about :-

*The allocation of resources to best promote the aims and values of the school as set out in the School Improvement Plan.

*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 pupils.

*Made comparisons with other /similar schools using data provided and relating to the levels of expenditure.

*Challenged proposals, examined them for effectiveness, quality and cost.

* Required suppliers to compete on grounds of cost, quality and suitability of services, products and backup.

*Consulted individuals and organisations on quality and suitability of the service we provide to parents and pupils and on services we receive.

FINANCIAL GOVERNANCE.

At the start of the new academic year 2013/14 Governors reviewed the Financial Scheme of Delegation and System of Financial Control at the General Governors and Finance Sub Committee Meetings. The Academy's financial Health was examined at least four times each term, reviewing performance against budget allocations and overall expenditure and monitoring for Best Value. All expenditure, financial procedures and Service Level Agreements were monitored and reviewed regularly as were any proposed costs for new or recurring projects or developments as well as any under/overspend. The Financial Risks were constantly reviewed in light of any new information. This was carried out in cooperation with the Financial Advisor and Business Manager by means of scrutiny of the Monthly Budget Profiles, the Cost Centre Summaries and Cash Flow Statements. The major risks to which the school was exposed were assessed relating to finance and the economic climate, staffing, services and facilities. Governors continually monitored the Income and expenditure streams, particularly to check that all due income had been received

There was concern about the cost of Supply cover for absence through sickness and maternity leave and in order to reduce these costs much of the short term absence was covered 'in house' and insurance was obtained to cover Maternity Leave. At all times governors were prudent in their spending and ensured that sufficient funds were held to cover all anticipated commitments as well as safeguarding against unexpected costs.

Governors intend to investigate the possible financial and service advantages of joining the EFA Risk Protection Scheme at the end of the present contract with the Local Authority. The on-going procedures for minimising office time by the regular purchase of goods and services such as stationery and small equipment under £2,000 from known and reliable suppliers, continued.

ASSET MANAGEMENT

The Asset Management Plan was reviewed termly and areas of need prioritised, particularly in relation to our Duty of Care (health and safety and safeguarding). Decisions were made in relation to curriculum requirements and also to improve the environment and security and to take into account the Academy's responsibility to the wider

community. During the past year tenders were invited through the competitive tendering procedures and decisions made on major works, including the renewal of playground surfaces and paths, additional security fencing, the installation of CCTV, and the purchase or upgraded ICT equipment for the pupils and the administration department. These decisions were made by the Finance Sub-Committee and ratified by the Full Governing Body. When examining the tenders, governors took into account the quality of workmanship, service and reliability, suitability for purpose and the cost, The "best value" quotes accepted were not necessarily the cheapest. Known, reliable and regular suppliers were invited to tender. Approximately £65,000 was spent including £18,173 for the installation of the CCTV

At all times the governors monitored the condition of the building and grounds to ensure that they were kept in good order and risk free. We continued to employ a team of three cleaners and the Caretaker, who helped to keep costs down by carrying out minor repairs and improvements.

As the roof was in a rapidly deteriorating condition, governors decided to approach a renowned company of Project Managers and Surveyors to help to secure a Grant of £913,775.00 from the Education Funding Agency's, Academies Capital Maintenance Fund. A total of £79,500 was committed from the school budget, making a total of £993,275.00 for the whole roof replacement project. The £88,290.00 cost of the Professional fees involved, were in line with the guidance on 'Percentage Professional Fees', outlined by the EFA. The Surveyors and Project Manager supported and advised the governors throughout the tendering, enabling work and new roof design and they will continue their direct involvement, including site management, until the project is completed at the end of March 2015.

When a portion of the roof blew off in a severe storm before the Project began, the Company worked with governors and the Loss Adjuster to finalise the Insurance claim of £35,000.

We consider the appointment of the Company of Project Managers and Surveyors as excellent Value for Money.

CURRICULUM, TEACHING and LEARNING .

The progress and attainment of the pupils continued to be of the highest priority and in order to improve the curriculum outcomes, both school and individual pupil targets were set. The governors worked to ensure that all human and general school resources (including the ICT facilities and equipment), together with the Teaching and Learning were of the highest standard to enable pupils to achieve their targets.

Governors reviewed the Staffing Structure, including the Senior Leadership Team and Subject Leaders and ensured that the Appraisal procedures were aligned to the National Headteachers' and Teachers' Standards, both pre and post threshold. Governors continued to prioritise staffing levels and to employ highly skilled and qualified practitioners, deployed with the most appropriate responsibilities for curriculum areas and classes, in order to further develop the quality of Teaching and Learning. Newly Qualified staff were also appointed to bring in new ideas and expertise to support the future development of the school and to contribute to balancing the staff costs. Last year £1,167,998 was spent on Teachers and Educational Support Staff. Governors regarded the training and development of staff (and governors) as an important factor in relation to the quality and delivery of teaching and learning and the curriculum. A total of £318,463 was devoted to this end with some in-house as well as external providers. As a member of the Heart of Manchester Partnership of eight schools, Webster shared expertise, training and development ideas with each other and staff spent time in each other's schools comparing standards of achievement and sharing good practice. Governors continued to study and analyse the pupil performance data and associated reports with the FFT and Ofsted Data Dashboards together with areas of the Raise on Line. The standards of progress and achievement were compared with both National and Local levels and Governors and the Head discussed the measures to be taken to improve any standards which were not meeting the National expectations. At the Curriculum and Attainment sub-Committee meetings, information on attendance, progress and attainment was regularly discussed and monitored along with a review of the School Improvement Plan and agreed future actions. The attendance was monitored daily by the admin staff and the family support worker. Throughout the year the attendance rose from 96.5% to 97.64%, which was well above the National Average. With the continuing employment and involvement of the Family Support Worker more parents attended classes for maths, literacy, parenting skills and English as a Second Language which gave them a greater insight into the curriculum and the confidence to help their children at home.

Elements of the budget were carefully targeted by the Governing Body and SLT to provide further richness and breadth to the curriculum and give our pupils the creative experiences which they may not normally receive and which bring their learning to life. As two examples, our ongoing work with the Manchester Camerata chamber orchestra and the National Holocaust Centre had particular impact and provided excellent value for money.

At the end of Key Stage 2 (Year 6) the overall progress was above average in all three subjects of Reading, Writing and Maths with better than expected progress above average. In Writing (8% achieved Level 6) and Maths (15% achieved Level 6) with 85% achieving Level 4+ in English Grammar. As in other classes, intervention programmes had been established for one to one or small group support for targeted pupils, including those with Special Educational Needs, LAC pupils and the Gifted and Talented pupils. To help to further improve pupil performance, there were coaching and tutoring classes after school and a one week Easter School was organised for year 6 pupils, with a focus on Literacy and Numeracy.

INCOME

The pupil Premium Grant for 2013/.14 was £ 181,811 and this significant proportion of our budget was used to focus on support for the 79% of FSM/Ever 6 pupils totaling 196 on roll (years 1to 6) in March 2014. The nature of support, according to priority need , focused on Learning in the Curriculum, Social, Emotional and Behaviour intervention strategies, Enrichment in the curriculum and Family support. As a result, the gaps in the performance of FSM and FSM/Ever 6 pupils, compared to Non-FSM pupils, were maintained at a low level with FSM/Ever 6 pupils attaining broadly in line with the average for their group.

The Primary PE Sports Grant of £8.000 was used to provide a rolling programme of sports coaching through Passport to Sport and Passport to Adventure and included Skateboarding for the first time. There were three 'After School Clubs' to support Gifted and Talented Gymnasts and football for younger pupils. Professional Sports Coaches were employed to provide a broader range of physical activity.

SCHOOL MEALS.

During the year, In order to improve the quality and variety of our school meals provision , we set up our own In - house school meals service and although initially the price per meal remained at £2.26 , this has proved to be better value for money due to the wider choice of a well-balanced meal including fresh vegetables, salad and fruit. Governors intend to analyse the production costs per meal after the 12 month period to see how they compare with those of the previous provider.

i confirm that the Trust applied its Best Value Policy to the full when carrying out its responsibilities.

Signed: Jeremy Jackson Academy Trust Accounting Officer

Date 15.12.14

Name: Mr Jeremy Jackson
Academy Trust Accounting Officer

Date: 15 Dec 2014