

Value for Money Statement

Organisation name: Salterlee Academy Trust Limited

Company number: 7712946

Year ended 31 August 2014

I accept that as accounting officer of Salterlee Academy Trust Limited 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 outcomes

The trust identified that attainment in Spelling and the quality of provision in Music and PE required improvement.

Spelling, Grammar and Punctuation

Targeted spelling interventions, professional development and new resources were combined to improve the schools performance in the statutory test. Results from 2014 show that the impact of this was that results significantly improved on the previous year (from 25.7 to 29.8 APS) and have thus increased from being below to above average.

PE and Sports

Funding was received through the National Lottery Awards for All scheme to improve the quality of PE and sports provision. In addition to the hiring of specialist sports coaches, sustainability of leadership was improved by releasing a member of staff to undertake a Foundation Degree in supporting learning in PE and Sports. Additional resources were made available to allow subject leadership more time to develop opportunities for pupils to participate in a wider range of activities and inter-school sports. Additional costs of these improvements were met by redeploying expenditure from existing external contractors.

Music

To improve provision the trust successfully applied for an Arts Council Grant which has made affordable a service level agreement with the Calderdale Schools Music Service. This has resulted in every pupil in Key Stage receiving weekly brass tuition and every pupil in Key Stage 1 a weekly singing lesson with a qualified music teacher. The SLA has also made possible a weekly whole school hymn practice with a music teacher. The impact of this is that school leadership judge the quality of provision in the subject to now be good.

Focus on individual pupils

Although the school has a below average proportion of pupils with individual needs it has identified a need for improving the support given to children with speech and language difficulties. To address this staff have received specialist training to raise the level of expertise in school. The school has also applied high visibility paint to external play equipment and steps to reduce the risk of injury to a visually impaired child.

Collaboration

The trust has worked in close partnership with other schools to reduce to overall cost of professional development. In particular the school is currently working with others within the East Calderdale Schools Cluster to ensure that staff are confident in their use of new assessment systems. Within the cluster members of school staff have also participated in leadership forums looking at appraisal; SENCO forums looking at the preparation of the local offer; and the EYFS forum focussing on the moderation of baseline assessments and EYFSP.

Overall Standards

Results from statutory assessments show that the overall average points score for pupils in Key Stage 2 significantly increased during the year to a level where it is now significantly above the National average. Overall standards in Key Stage 1 were maintained and remain significantly above average.

Financial governance and oversight

The trust's Finance and Resource Committee have provided good oversight of school leadership. In particular they have provided the required challenge to discourage unnecessary surpluses from developing by encouraging budget commitments are made to meet the needs of the school development plan.

Over the course of the next cycle resources have been made available to improve the provision in Food Technology, develop Group Intervention areas and improve environmental learning areas to meet the priority agreed with Ofsted (2013).

Better purchasing

The trust has renegotiated the cost of its IT support SLA to save around £900 per year. Improvements have been made to the quality and level of HR support by taking out a new SLA with Calderdale Council.

The trust is currently working with other schools within Calderdale to benchmark the cost of school meals. The outcome of this will be used to evaluate where potential improvements can be made.

Having received a Capital Maintenance Fund 2014-15 award for damp eradication and window replacement the trust implemented a tender process for the works entailed. This resulted in sufficient funds being retained from damp eradication works to complete the necessary window replacements.

Maximising income generation

The trust has taken opportunities to maximise its generation of income. In particular the expertise of the Headteacher was shared with other schools through providing consultative support with the Leading Parent Partnership award which generated around £11k. In addition the lettings of space within the school were reviewed during the period with the rent charged to a pre-school group being increased by 10%.

Reviewing controls and managing risks

The trust has a robust finance department which ensures financial policies are in place and adhered to, with tight financial controls which are monitored both internally by a seconded bursar from Rastrick High school and externally via our Internal Audit Reviewer at Calderdale council and our external auditors Spenser Wilson.

We set clear annual budgets which are monitored against actual spend on monthly budget reports.

Name: Mr Mark Scott

Academy Trust Accounting Officer

Date: 10 Dec 2014