

ACADEMY@WORDEN

Value for Money Statement 2014

As Accounting officer of Academy@Worden 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.

1. Introduction

Academy@Worden is a happy, purposeful and thriving school that provides excellent opportunities for all students to succeed. Learning is the central focus of all that is done at Worden and it is committed to developing the whole child providing opportunities essential for personal, intellectual, emotional and social growth.

All students are supported by a strong pastoral system, which ensures they receive the individual care and attention they need. An extensive system of rewards encourages the pursuit of excellence and values, and celebrates achievements in all areas of school life. High expectations of attendance, punctuality, uniform and behaviour underpins success in school and lays the foundations for success in the wider community and life beyond school.

All members of the school community are encouraged to work and co-operate in an atmosphere of mutual respect which is integral to the school ethos.

The academy has a five year plan to increase student numbers to 480 by 2017.

During the year we were nominated for Lancashire Secondary School of the Year by the Lancashire Evening Post for a third year running. In 2012 the school was judged 'Good' by Ofsted.

This statement details the procedures in place to achieve value for money and our plans for the future.

Improving Educational Standards

In 2012 a middle leadership structure was introduced to support the leadership team in monitoring the effectiveness of teaching and learning. The success of this policy was evidenced by the outcome of our OFSTED inspection in September 2012 which rated the school as good, with no lessons observed being rated as inadequate. We have built upon this in 2013/14 as a real focus, and over the year 94% of lesson observations have been rated as good or outstanding.

The academy improved its support for individual students by recruiting three additional teaching assistants to provide one to one support for students whose achievement was below their target grades. In addition, we recruited two new

Progress Managers to our Pastoral team to help nurture and support the increasing roll numbers.

In 2014, funding from the pupil premium was used to invest in careers advice and support for students. Specific support included intervention programmes, CPD to improve teaching and learning, Kagan training, mentoring and counselling provision.

In 2013 the working hours of the Attendance Officer were increased to enable better monitoring of attendance. The initiative led to improved attendance overall and significant reduction in the absence rate of students with attendance below 90%.

Financial Governance

This year, financial systems were enhanced and risks reduced. A cashless system has been introduced in the academy, which has rolled out for catering, trips and events. The aim will be to go totally cashless early in 2015.

A new system of reports for governors was introduced which enabled improved forecasting, better cash flow management and detailed information to ensure regularity of expenditure consistent with the strategic plans of the academy. Four year forecasts have been produced aligned to lean processing efficiencies.

There has also been a change in the finance department, with a two new members of the team, who have both settled well and adding real value to the procurement, processing and management, as evidenced in recent audit reports.

Better Purchasing

A continuance of searching for value in contracts is central to the finance roll, and we are pleased to say we have saved over £22,000 on contracts, with successes seen in the new grounds, payroll and catering contracts. The new finance team have worked collaboratively with the Lancashire Association of School Business Managers (LASBM), People and Pay HR forum and FD Forum to bargain better pricing.

Monitoring

All aspects of the academy will be monitored by:

- Weekly Senior and Operational Leadership Team meetings
- Termly Headteachers report to governors
- Governors' termly committee meetings
- Full governors' termly meetings
- Headteachers appraisal and target setting meeting
- Staff appraisal
- Regular financial reviews

- Regular meetings with the appointed accountants, auditors and responsible officer
- Analysis of student performance data
- Benchmarking exercises

Income Generation

The academy has an active Parent Teacher and Friends Association (PTFA) which has made significant contributions to activities at the academy.

In addition we have commenced a relationship with School Lettings Solutions, in a joint venture to market and manage the lettings. This will save a minimum of £12000 per annum and provide additional income growth in the medium term.

We have also been successful in two ACMF bids resulting in over £600,000 of funding for roof and boiler replacement.

Risk Management

A risk register was prepared and approved by the governing body in July 2013, which has been upgraded and reviewed in March 2014, along with the EFA fraud indicators.

Pupil Welfare

Governors and senior leaders continue to review the quality of the school environment and the school ethos, in order to provide a supportive environment conducive to learning and high levels of achievement.

Health and Safety

Governors and senior leaders have reviewed the quality of the school environment and equipment in order to provide a safe working environment for pupils, staff, visitors and other stakeholders. With new staff structure in health and safety management, we will be looking to set up a new health and safety committee, with a cross section of governors and staff.

Plans for Future Periods

In 2013/14 the academy will deliver further improvements in value for money by:

Mitigate risk by the move to full cashless across the academy and the transfer of PE & uniform sales to an outside vendor, DeltaWool.

Further review contracts and service agreements with a view to performing more services in house.

Introducing and monitoring the long term strategic and financial plans.

Challenge the effects of the lagged funding system.

Continuing to bid for additional external funds following the successful bid for Academies Capital Maintenance Funds in April 2014.

Signed

Name: Mr C Catherall

Academy Trust Accounting Officer

Date: 17th December 2014