

Value for Money Statement

Academy trust name: Highcliffe School

Academy trust company number: 07631213

Year ended 31 August 2014

I accept that as accounting officer of **Highcliffe 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.

Improving Educational Results:

In 2013/14, the School achieved it's second highest ever GCSE results with reference to the 5A*-C including English and mathematics benchmark. Some relevant analysis includes:

- A 5 (A* - C) pass rate of 73 %
- A 5 (A*-C) including English and mathematics of 68%
- An (A*-C) pass rate of 78 % in mathematics
- An (A*-C) pass rate including English, mathematics and science of 66%

This has been achieved against a backdrop of relatively low levels of funding per student, compared with the national average, as Dorset County Council belongs to the F40 group of low funded Local Authorities.

Targeted Improvement

The School has targeted improvement on areas identified through self-evaluation and the Ofsted process. These include:

- A review of curricular provision in light of national changes
- Increasing the proportion of good and outstanding teaching
- Preparing for assessment without national curriculum levels
- Ensuring that appropriate support is in place to promote improvement in the few areas that demonstrate some underachievement

Focus on Individual Students

Examples of how the school has focussed on the needs of individual students include:

- The continued provision of a personalised curriculum for many students to meet their individual talents and needs
- A wide-ranging programme to support transition from KS2 to KS3
- Supporting students with pupil premium funds
- A July OFSTED inspection on 'alternative off-site provision' found the school's provision for such students to be appropriate and giving value for money

New Initiatives

The School has implemented cashless catering which has provided improved information for parents, the school and the catering company, and has increased the take up of free school meals. Partnership working with the catering contractor has enabled the delivery of a service that best suits the Schools needs

Financial Governance & Oversight

Governors have been engaged with financial governance through the use of the Scheme of Delegation and the reports received from the external and internal auditors, and the Headteacher and Business Manager.

Purchasing and cost saving

The School adopts a Best Value approach to purchasing which takes account of the quality or provision and not just the price. Documents are retained which provide relevant information in the event of business being placed with suppliers that did not provided the lowest quotation.

The Cleaning contract was put out to tender as an individual site within a group contract and cost savings of 14% were achieved. Collaborative working with the contractor has also ensured that the standard of cleaning has increased significantly.

In 2013/14, following a review of the past and projected costs and benefits of purchasing absence insurance cover, the School took the decision to self-fund the cost of supply cover for staff absences. The net cost to the school did not increase, but a significant amount of staff time has been saved in administering the claims process.

Revenue Streams

The School made a successful bid to the Academies Capital Maintenance Fund for improvements to fire safety measures, securing a grant of £26,000.

The School continued to develop local transport options to supported increased numbers of 6th form students. This has contributed to significant growth in the size of the sixth form, which in turn helps to maximise funding.

The School has continued to welcome overseas students from the EU into the sixth form. This generates funding and provides enrichment for both the EU and UK based students.

Policies have been implemented that ensure parents are contributing sufficiently to the cost of non-statutory activities such as school trips and work experience, although relevant students are protected from the impact through the use of pupil premium funding.

Risk Management

Local collaboration, together with advice from the School's insurers has enabled the production of a generic business continuity plan. This will be reviewed and personalised to reflect the School's individual circumstances. During the year, the School's general health and safety audit, fire risk assessment and legionellas management plans have all been updated, and although a high standard of management was reported, further areas for improvement were identified and implemented.

Lessons Learned

The targeting of intervention at specific cohorts of students streamlines the amount of resources required to improve results. The impact of booster classes and one to one tuition in 2012/13 was reviewed to inform plans for 2013/14.

Signed: 

Name:Patrick Earnshaw.....

Academy Trust Accounting Officer

Date:15/10/14.....