

Value for Money Statement

Academy trust name: Highcliffe School

Academy trust company number: 07631213

Year ended 31 August 2013

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:

The Ofsted report conducted in March 2013 concluded that the School had achieved good results in all four main categories of inspection :

- Achievement of pupils
- Quality of teaching
- Behaviour and safety of pupils
- Leadership and management

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.

In 2012/13, the School achieved the best GCSE results for maintained schools in Dorset, including:

- A 5 (A* - C) pass rate of 86 %, which is the highest the school has ever achieved
- A 5 (A*-C) including english and mathematics of 74% which represents an increase of 17 % compared with 2012.
- An (A*-C) pass rate of 81 % in mathematics

Targeted Improvement

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

- Further improving progress and results in mathematics
- Increase the proportion of good and outstanding teaching
- Modelling curriculum progress plans to address areas targeted for improvement

Focus on Individual Students

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

- Provision mapping of strategies and activities for specific students with additional educational needs
- A robust programme for gifted and talented students
- Supported students with pupil premium funds

New Initiatives

The School has developed effective use of laptops by teaching assistants to improve the impact of support for specific students in the classroom.

Parents have been enabled to make payments to the School on-line through the installation of the Wise Pay facility. This has enabled improved use of finance staff time.

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. Governors have assisted with the development of standard terms and conditions for procurement, and the establishment of the Audit Committee.

Purchasing and cost saving

During the year, the School has made use of the service provided by the Crescent Purchasing Consortium for the review and procurement of insurance service. This process achieved annual savings of £16,000 in the cost of insurance.

Additionally during 2012/13, the buildings cleaning contract was put out to tender through the Local Authority, which resulted in savings of £19,000 for the coming year.

Solar Panels were installed free of charge through a national scheme run by British Gas. These should provide the school with energy cost savings of around £4,000 per year, in addition to providing educational information and demonstrating commitment to "green" initiatives. The School's Energy Display Certificate rating should be improved, and the School will be better placed as carbon taxes increase in the future.

Research was undertaken on the benefits of changing the provider of the School's telephone lines, and future savings from the selected new supplier should amount to around £4,000 per year.

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 delivery of fire safety training was provided in a flexible manner through the purchase of an approved training DVD. This avoided the need for whole school training to take place during inset days, and ensured that the maximum time was available for training related to teaching and learning.

Increasing use has been made of electronic media for newsletters and other more specific communications with parents in order to save costs on printing and postage.

Discounts achieved through the bulk purchase of items such as revision guides are passed on to parents.

Revenue Streams

In response to changes in local transport provision, the number of students on roll is being increased through additional transport options provided by the school.

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 reviewed to ensure that in future, parents are contributing sufficiently to the cost of non-statutory activities such as work experience, although relevant students are protected from the impact through the use of pupil premium funding. Parents are also encouraged to contribute to fundraising activities such as whole school sponsored events.

Community fundraising by a local supermarket has provided funds to enable the School to complete a school garden project.


Risk Management

During the tendering process for insurance, the risks to be insured were reviewed, and Risk Management advisers provided by the insurance company have visited the school to examine records and procedures.

Lessons Learned

In order to make best use of available funding, the School undertakes continuous review of student take up, scale of provision and impact of curriculum areas. The staffing structure is also under constant review with the management of staff turnover being used to maximise delivery within or below budgeted costs.

The targeting of intervention at specific cohorts of students streamlines the amount of resources required to improve results.

Signed: 

Name:Judith Potts.....

Academy Trust Accounting Officer

Date: 28/11/13