

Value for Money Statement

Academy trust name: Mercenfeld Primary school Academy Trust

Academy trust company number: 8423518

Year ended 31 August 2014

I accept that as accounting officer of Mercenfeld 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.

Introduction

The governing body is accountable for the way in which the school's resources are allocated to meet the objectives set out in the school's plans. Mercenfeld School needs to secure the best possible outcome for pupils sustained in the most efficient and effective way, at a reasonable cost. This will lead to improvement in the school's achievements and services.

The Governors of **Mercenfeld Primary School Academy Trust** are committed to achieving Best Value in all decisions made. We use the principles of Best Value as they apply to securing continuous improvement in this school and will:

- regularly review the functions of the school, **challenging** how and why services are provided and setting targets and performance indicators for improvement;
- monitor outcomes and **compare** performance with similar schools and within the school;
- **consult** appropriate stakeholders before major decisions are made; and
- promote fair **competition** through quotations and tenders to ensure that goods and services are secured in the most economic, efficient and effective way.

Our Approach

We will apply the principles of *best value* when making decisions about:

- the allocation of resources to best promote the aims and values of the school.
- the targeting of resources to best improve standards and the quality of provision.
- the use of resources to fully support the various educational needs of all students.

We will:

- make comparisons with other/similar schools using data provided by the LA and the Government, e.g. RAISEONLINE, quality of teaching & learning, levels of expenditure.
- challenge proposals, examining them for effectiveness, efficiency and cost.
- require suppliers to compete on grounds of cost, and quality/suitability of services / products / backup.
- consult individuals and organisations on quality/suitability of service we provide to parents and pupils, and services we receive from providers.

This will apply in particular to staffing, use of premises, use of resources, quality of teaching, quality of learning, purchasing, pupils' welfare and health and safety.

Staffing

We will deploy staff to provide best value in terms of quality of teaching, quality of learning, staff-student ratio, and curriculum management.

Use of Premises

We will consider the allocation and use of teaching areas, support areas and communal areas, provide the best environment for teaching & learning, for support services and for communal access to central resources, e.g. the library.

We have begun to rent out our hall in the evenings to generate income.

Use of Resources

We will deploy equipment, materials and services to provide students and staff with resources which support quality of teaching and quality of learning.

We have changed our printing procedures so that most now goes through our photocopier, vastly reducing our ink budget.

Teaching/Learning

We will review the quality of curriculum provision and quality of teaching/learning, to provide:

- a curriculum which meets the requirements of the National Curriculum.
- teaching which builds on previous learning and has high expectations of student achievement.

Purchasing

We will develop procedures for assessing need, and obtaining goods and services which provide "best value" in terms of suitability, efficiency, time, and cost. Measures already in place include:

- competitive tendering procedures (e.g. for goods and services above £5,000)
- procedures for accepting "best value" quotes, which are not necessarily the cheapest (e.g. suitability for purpose and quality of workmanship)

- All orders of classroom stationary etc now go through one person 3 times a year. This reduces cost and waste.

Pupils' Welfare

We will review the quality of the school environment and the school ethos in order to provide a supportive environment conducive to learning and recreation.

Health & Safety

We will review the quality of the school environment and equipment, carrying out risk assessments where appropriate, in order to provide a safe working environment for students, staff and visitors.

Monitoring

These areas will be monitored for best value by:

1. Annual target setting meetings between the Head teacher, Governors and Subject Leaders
2. Annual Performance Management
3. Annual Budget Planning
4. Analysis's of school student performance data, e.g. SATs results, standardised test results
5. Analysis of DfE pupil performance data
6. OFSTED Inspection reports
7. Governors' termly committee meetings
8. Governors' full termly meetings
9. Self Evaluation framework



Signed:

Name: Mr Andrew Kitchen

Academy Trust Accounting Officer

Date:

