

Value for Money Statement

Academy trust name: Trinity Church of England High School

Academy trust company number: 07878966

Year ended 31 August 2014

I accept that as accounting officer of **Trinity Church of England High 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.

The following statement contains information that is most relevant to the school, including the issues that have the most impact on resources. In particular the areas where value for money has been achieved and where we strive for improvement.

1. Improving Educational Outcomes

Areas where the academy has achieved value for money

- In January, 2014, Trinity had a full Ofsted inspection. In all four categories – achievement of pupils, quality of teaching, behaviour and safety of pupils and leadership and management – the school was judged to be “outstanding”.
The overall effectiveness of the school was also described as “outstanding”.
- Trinity Church of England High School was granted permission to open a Sixth Form in September 2016.
- A bid to the Academies Capital Maintenance Fund for funding of £1,908,717 towards the building of the Sixth Form was approved.
- Trinity Church of England will contribute £1 million towards the building of the Sixth Form achieved through good housekeeping and budgetary control.
- Provision of in-house catering has seen a continued rise in the uptake of meals.

Targeted improvement

- Annual review of school staffing structure was completed to ensure the staffing structure is fit for purpose.
- Continued drive to secure high quality staff across the school through effective recruitment and staff development.
- Continue to invest in training and development to ensure the provision of teaching is good or outstanding.
- The school uses rigorous performance management processes for teachers.
- Additional staffing in English and mathematics is provided to support smaller targeted classes as required.
- Recruitment of a new member of staff to the leadership team to lead the mathematics department and take responsibility for whole school numeracy.

Focus on Individual pupils

- A Summer School was held in July 2014 for Year 6 students joining Trinity who met the national criteria.
- Active gifted and talented programme is in place.
- Focused and specific target setting – individual student tracking across the school.
- Pupil premium funds are utilised to narrow the educational attainment gap along with other key interventions across years 7 -11.
- Pupil premium achievement outcomes are reported to full governors and published on our website annually.

Collaboration

- We work closely with other schools in the Manchester Central Collaborative in order to share ideas and plan strategies. This regular cycle of meetings has benefited the Head, Curriculum Deputy, Personnel Deputy, English, maths, science, NQTs and RQTs. Also, behaviour and attendance support has benefited. We annually pay £8000 for involvement in this Collaborative. Other areas of collaboration include the L.A, Manchester Diocese, AASSH and Pixl (Partners in Excellence).
- A number of external agencies are used to provide extended learning experiences and careers days.
- Continued partnership with our 90+ partner primary schools, including staff training and development .

New Initiatives

- Continued implementation of our ICT facilities through participation in the BSF Capita project.
- Review of staffing costs to ensure that new, targeted interventions are introduced to support students in receipt of Pupil Premium grant.

Quantifying improvements

The evidence base for quantifying the effect of the school's strategies include the following:

- Outstanding in all categories in January 2014 Ofsted inspection
- Increased student attendance (*96.8% in 2013-14*). This is the school's highest ever figure.
- Building up a substantial financial surplus which is allocated to the sixth form development capital fund.
- Developing data analysis to ensure that decision making is evidence based.
- Individual departments, the Senior Leadership Team and Governors review a wide range of data to support decision making.
- Track trends in data to ensure interventions achieve the required impact.
- Data on key students is used to plan interventions and ensure that student groups are challenged and developed.

Financial governance and oversight

- The school budget is set and approved towards the end of the summer term and the Finance Committee of Governors meets half termly to monitor and evaluate spending. The Chair of the Committee is a qualified chartered accountant and is assisted by the Business Manager, Head and an experienced team of governors. Minutes of all meetings confirm that spending is monitored robustly.

- Financial performance is at least good. The school operates within its allocated budget and has been able to build up a surplus.
- The Finance Committee reviews a detailed overview of the budget each half term and challenges individual cost centres where appropriate.
- There is a strong commitment in place that funds should be spent effectively and for the benefit of the students.

Better purchasing

- The school has clear budget headings and defined spending amounts, above which three quotations are obtained. All services and contracts are negotiated and this ensures fitness for purpose.
- Purchase options are considered both in relation to short and long term benefits, competitive tendering is employed (already mentioned) and, although the school prefers to do business locally, best value is achieved by looking further afield where appropriate.
- A review of our insurance premium was undertaken with Baker Tilly and Manchester City Council and a reduction in premiums was achieved.
- The Cleaning Contract was re-negotiated achieving a reduction in cost.
- Reprographics contracts have had a major overhaul and significant reductions in costs have been achieved. At the end of this process we expect to make additional savings.

A commitment to benchmarking

- The school benchmarks its spending against similar schools in the LA and the Diocese and is receptive to joint procurement of services.

Generating new income streams

This is co-ordinated by the Business Manager.

- We successfully applied for a Capital Maintenance grant to build a 300 student sixth form facility.
- We have submitted a bid for funding to help equip our science labs in the new sixth form and are at the 3rd stage process of the bid system.
- Funding has been received from the British Council towards our overseas links with Namibia.
- Summer school programme undertaken again for the second year has enabled us to extend our extra-curricular activities involving the new Year 7 pupils, funded by a Department for Education grant.

Areas where the academy could do better:

- In 2014, 53% of students achieved 5+ A*-C grades including English and mathematics. The target for 2015 is 70%.

Reviewing Controls and Managing Risks

This is pursued through the Governors' Finance Committee and through the fortnightly meetings between the Business Manager and the Head, (who is also the Accounting Officer).

How we have managed cash, bank balances and investments effectively.

- Reviewed banking arrangements and moving accounts from the Co-operative Bank to Lloyds Bank.
- During the interim period a new high interest deposit account was set up to secure additional interest.
- Reviewed our method of payment to suppliers and undertaken to reduce cheque payments and replace with BACS payments reducing administration, postage and paper.
- Negotiated a reduced cost in buildings insurance premiums.
- Use of online banking facilities.
- Reprographic contracts have been appraised and identified as an area where further costs can be saved.

Signed: David S. Ainsworth

Name: David S Ainsworth

Academy Trust Accounting Officer

Date: 21.11.2014