

Value for Money Statement

Academy trust: Trinity Church of England High School

Academy trust company number: 07878966

Year ended 31 August 2015

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 ensure that the Academy Trust's use of its resources and provides good value for money.

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.

Improving Educational Outcomes

Areas where the academy has achieved value for money

- Trinity Church of England High School has been granted permission to open a Sixth Form in September 2016.
- 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 and retain high quality staff across the school through effective recruitment and staff development.
- Continue to invest in training to ensure the provision of teaching is good or outstanding.
- The school uses rigorous performance management processes for teachers.

Focus on Individual Students

- A Summer School was held in July/August 2015 for Year 6 students joining Trinity who met the national criteria. This was extended from the previous years 1 week to 2 weeks.
- A Gifted and Talented programme is in place.
- Focused and specific target setting and 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.
- Specific strategies which led to boys achieving as high as girls in the 2015 GCSEs; 62% each.

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.
- Partnership work as a member of the Manchester Teaching School Alliance.

New Initiatives

- Continued improvement of our ICT facilities through our BSF Capita contract.
- 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 includes the following:

- Increased student attendance (96.87% in 2014-15) which is the school's highest ever figure.
- Building up a financial surplus which is allocated to the sixth form development fund.
- Developing data analysis to ensure that decision making is evidence based.
- Individual departments, the 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 individual students and groups are challenged.

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 continues 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 and, although the school prefers to do business locally, best value is achieved by looking further afield where appropriate.
- Reprographics contracts have had a major overhaul. A significant reduction in costs has been achieved.

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.

- The building work on our new sixth form facility for 300 students is reaching completion in preparation for a first intake of 150 students in September 2016.
- We received a generous donation from a private individual to help equip science labs in the new sixth form.
- Funding has been received from the British Council towards our overseas links with Namibia.
- Summer school programme extended to two weeks involving the new Year 7 pupils, funded by a Department for Education grant.
- Funds have been invested in the Nationwide Building Society to capitalise on surplus cash balance in the bank account and maximize interest earnings.

Areas where the academy could do better:

- In 2015, 62% of students achieved 5+ A*-C grades including English and mathematics. Although in relative terms this was well above local and national averages, the target figure was 70%.
- New performance indicators are to be introduced throughout England in 2016.

Reviewing Controls and Managing Risks

This is pursued through the Governors' Finance Committee and 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 moved accounts from the Co-operative Bank to Lloyds Bank.
- New deposit accounts have been 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.

Signed:

Date:

David S. Ainsworth

4th September, 2015

Name: David S Ainsworth Academy Trust Accounting Officer