

West Town Lane Academy



Value for Money Statement

Academy Trust Company Number: 7848632

Year ended 31st August 2014

I accept that as accounting officer of West Town Lane Academy 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:

We have ensured that resources are directed where they are most needed and most effective in meeting educational requirements, for example by:

- Introducing Reading Recovery into Year 1
- Employing specific intervention teachers for disadvantaged children
- Employing an additional 50% Year 6 teacher to stream children in core subjects
- Professional development of the EYFS team to implement the new curriculum and assessment procedures
- Use Apprentices to support children's learning whilst also supporting their lifelong learning
- Introducing Talk for Writing across the Academy
- Introducing new staff performance procedures

The effectiveness of these strategies can be seen in improved pupil outcomes, staff observations and preparations for delivery of a new curriculum.

Financial Governance and Oversight:

Our governance arrangements include regular monitoring by the Board of Governors and its committees, including the Staffing Committee and Premises/ Finance Committee. They receive regular financial reports and ask relevant questions as evidenced in the minutes. There are supported by independent audit from our Accountants Moore Stephens

The work of these committees is further informed by regular Responsible Officer reports following monitoring visits.

Better Purchasing:

Examples of steps taken to ensure value for money when purchasing include:

- Exploring alternative purchasing options both on-line and direct through suppliers to find the best value.
- Implementing a tender process for significant purchases and/or contracts, for example the roofing contract, CCTV maintenance, alarm monitoring.
- Reducing costs to the Academy with catering by bringing the service in house.
- Identification of preferred suppliers to ensure quality and fair pricing.
- Identification of new provider of Education Welfare services.

All contracts are reviewed regularly to ensure they are fit for purpose and best value. Examples are Education Psychology, Education Welfare, building maintenance and payroll.

Better Income Generation:

Examples of steps to maximize income include:

- Selling IT support services to other schools.
- Hosting trainee teachers, including School Direct, BA and PGCE placements.
- Move catering service in house rather than third party.
- Successful grant applications to the EFA for £125,000 for a new roof and Awards for All for £10,000 towards play equipment.
- School minibuses are used by several other local schools and youth groups.

Reviewing Controls and Managing Risks:

The Finance Committee, Business Manager, Office Manager and the Senior Leadership Team have reviewed regular budget reports, including future recommendations. This has ensured that spending is within budget and forward plans are agreed and implemented when there has been any variance.

Actions taken to manage risk include the purchase of an appropriate level of insurance cover, following consultation with the school's broker. Professional advice (for example from the HR and legal service providers) has also been sought when needed.

Risk report has been formulated in conjunction with the Business Manager and independent auditor from Delegated Services.

Future Objectives:

We recognise the need to use the facilities we have to provide training venues for others; school catering opportunities at breakfast time may bring in income; continues application to ACMF for building projects.

Signed:  J. Hughes

Academy Trust Accounting Officer

Date: 14th November 2014