

Value for Money Statement

Academy Trust name: Montgomery High School

Academy Trust Company Number: 07984008

Year ended 31 August 2014

I accept that as Accounting Officer of Montgomery 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.

Principles

- Management and governors are given regular management accounts to track, and hold to account, the finances of the Academy. These reports are used to make informed decisions about the best use of the Academy funds. A schedule of delegation is reviewed and ratified each academic year by the Full Governing Body as are the Risk Register and Key Risks Management Plan, which are updated throughout the year.
- In addition to External Auditors, Responsible Officer checks are undertaken each quarter on the schools finances and a report submitted to the Finance and Premises Governors Committee.
- Strong internal controls are in place to ensure that all ordering is signed off by budget holders. Budget holders are tasked with running their department on a prudent budget, in addition to maintaining and improving the learning and teaching environment and examination results. Resources are shared where appropriate.
- When significant expenditure is due to take place different options are appraised and competitive quotations (usually 3) sought to ensure that the best value for money is obtained and that the investment will generate the best possible results for the Academy.
- Configuration and deployment of staff is reviewed annually at the Governing Body Personnel Committee meeting and carefully analysed through the academic year. This includes forward projection and succession planning.
- The Academy works with other Academies in the area to obtain best value for money in service contracts. Benchmarking is undertaken where appropriate.

Specific Examples

- As part of merging into the Fylde Coast Academy Trust careful due diligence has identified that the 3% 'top slice' is low in comparison to others and represents excellent value for money.
- Our Academy Clerking function has been transferred to a service with specific academy expertise at no cost increase.
- Printing of the school prospectus for 2015 was secured to a higher standard alongside a 50% cost saving by using a new supplier.
- Careful control of staffing costs, equipment investment and tight input cost controls have been implemented across the catering function of the Academy. This has improved the trading position.
- Modular buildings were erected on site to provide additional support and recreation facilities. This includes fitness equipment which has been widely used by students and staff, enhancing the health of our organisation.
- As we have now repaid our historical deficit, cash surpluses are generating interest.
- Improvement in ICT facilities has been sustained to enhance the learning and support structure of the Academy.
- Refurbishment of the internal school buildings was carried out on a 'rolling' programme in order to maintain a good learning environment. Work was carried out using the skills of our existing employed site staff rather than buying in more expensive external trade services.
- Careful forward management has reduced teaching staff costs by 2.6% of income and overall teaching and associate staff costs by 1.5% year on year. This downward trend projects forward.
- The Academy has taken advantage of economies of scale by the efficient deployment of staff offered. Examples of this are the strategic decisions taken to deploy an additional data analyst to enhance the impact of performance data in improving progress and Teaching Assistants in English and Mathematics with specific responsibility to accelerate progress of disadvantaged students.
- The school has taken advantage of opportunities to reconfigure staffing in order to maximise efficiency and promote higher achievement.
- The value for money obtained and savings generated in all aspects of the schools work, whilst sustaining our service quality at the highest level, have enabled the school to repay our historical deficit.

Signed:



Name: Simon Brennand

Academy Trust Accounting Officer

Date: 08/10/14