

Bennett Memorial Diocesan School Trust
Company Number 07542155

Value for Money Statement
Year ended 31 August 2013

I accept that as Accounting Officer of Bennett Memorial Diocesan School (The School) I am responsible and accountable for ensuring that the School 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 taxpayers resources received.

I set out below how I have ensured that the School's use of its resources has provided good value for money during the academic year.

The School Trust is committed to:-

1. Raising student attainment.

Exam results for 2012/13 were excellent with:

- 80% of GCSE students achieving 5 or more A* to C including English and mathematics
- In English 89% of students made the 3 levels expected progress and in mathematics 88%. In both subjects more than half of all students made greater than expected progress achieving 4 or more levels of progress from their starting points on entry
- Year 10 students GCSE result in Religious Studies, taken a year early, with 65% of the 228 students achieving A or A* grades.
- 99% of all A level examinations taken were passed. 55% of all A Levels taken were passed with grades A*- B and 80% were passed with grades A* to C.

Value added is once again strongly positive, indicating that in the Bennett sixth form students make stronger progress than the average from GCSE to A Level

The School has fully embedded tracking systems for individual students that track levels of progress from Key Stage 2 through to Post 16. As a result the School has evidence that around the 92 % of students are making the required 3+ levels of progress with increasing numbers of students making 4+ and 5+ levels of progress.

The School monitor and track attendance and behaviour, both of which are exemplary as stated in the Outstanding Ofsted report, June 2012.

<http://docs.bennett.kent.sch.uk/prospectus/BennettMemorialOfstedReport.pdf>

2. Financial governance and oversight

The School has an Audit committee supported by MHA McIntyre Hudson LLP who undertake the Responsible Officer checks. These checks review key financial policies, systems and procedures, including the use of tenders and reports on compliance to the Audit committee.

The Finance and Resources Committee receive monthly budget monitoring reports in addition to the presentation of the termly monitoring report.

The Full Governing Body approves the budget each year and is mindful of the need to balance expenditure against income to ensure the School remains a 'going concern'.

The Governing Body also receives and approves the Annual Accounts and the external auditors' management reports.

3. Ensuring the operation of the School demonstrates good value for money and efficient and effective use of resources

The School benchmarks financial performance against other academy trusts to demonstrate that the School provides good value for money.

Tender exercises are regularly undertaken to ensure that high value contracts are assessed against the marketplace on a regular basis to ensure that long term contracts remain competitive.

For purchases above £1,500 but below the tender limit 3 quotes are required.

4. Maximising income generation

The School explores every opportunity to generate income through hire of its facilities.


5. Reviewing controls and managing risks.

Monthly budget monitoring reports are produced and reviewed by the Leadership team and any necessary remedial action taken to address any significant variances that may have an impact on the budget out-turn.

The School ensures that all surplus cash balances are invested to maximise interest earning potential.

6. Reviewing operation to maximise use of resources.

The Governing Body and the School Leadership Team review expenditure within each budget heading annually and make changes based on the effectiveness of strategies introduced in previous years, curriculum offer and any new strategies identified in the School Improvement Plan.

Signed 
Ian Bauckham
Accounting Officer

Date