

Value for Money Statement

Academy Trust Name: Ormesby School Academy Trust

Academy Trust Company Number: 8171219

Year Ended: 31 August 2013

I accept that as Accounting Officer of Ormesby School Academy Trust 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 ensure that resources and materials are directed where they are most needed and are aligned with our Strategic Plan. Helping to drive student achievement throughout the school.
- We review the quality of children's learning, by cohort, class and group, to provide teaching which enables children to achieve nationally expected progress, e.g. setting of annual pupil achievement targets and striving to improve on or maintain previous years exam results and attendance.
- Staff are deployed to ensure personalised learning pathways for vulnerable learners. Examples include:
 - in Y7, Y8 and Y9 we run an adapted curriculum for students who enter secondary school with very low ability. The curriculum is adapted to focus upon the development of literacy and numeracy skills, as well as social and emotional development. Groups are no larger than 12 students, led by a teacher and supported by a teaching assistant. In some cases, the class size is as low as 6
 - Class sizes throughout the school are lower than average in recognition of the literacy needs of many of our students
 - a specialist English teacher is employed two days each week to provide reading and literacy intervention for identified students
 - this year we are supporting the professional development of two English graduates through the Schools Direct programme. The students will qualify and begin their NQT year with us in September 2014
 - students in KS4 are supported on a one to one development programme in English
 - in order to extend the more able learners, progress targets are set by SLT which are beyond that which is expected
 - additional subjects are offered to enable KS4 students to study beyond the school day
- Ormesby School is fully committed to improving educational results by becoming an accredited Thinking School, where our core business of teaching and learning is delivered in a way that engages our learners in thinking about learning and the processes involved in learning.

The focus on Habits of Mind and David Hyerle's Thinking Maps as a way of getting students to think and change their attitudes toward the learning process.

The benefits of developing a whole-school approach have been immense. Apart from the confidence engendered there is clear evidence that there is a significant improvement in students working harder and more independently.

The pleasure of going through this learning is obvious when you see the children at work. They understand how they learn and this has led to much greater self-confidence. They are able to talk about how they think and the tools they have available to help them. When they find learning difficult they are able to identify the reasons. They know now how to use thinking skills in every part of their lives.

- Membership of a national network of schools has enabled us to benefit from best practice across the country in tracking the progress of students throughout their school career.

- We have recently purchased a management information system which enables us to instantly interrogate the progress being made by our entire school population, identifying trends and issues which can be immediately addressed to ensure timely and effective intervention.

Financial Governance and Oversight

- Our Finance and Resource Committee enhanced by our auditors Responsible Officer, receive and review financial reports and evaluate actual spends against the budget.

Better Purchasing

- We are an associated member of North East Procurement Organisation, which allows us to price compare for resources and materials ensuring value for money.
- We ensure that appropriate quotes are sought and follow a formal tender procedure as set out in our Financial Handbook where required.
- We collaborate with other local schools to share good practice.

Better Income Generation

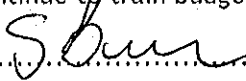
- Ormesby has received funding from The Big Lottery Fund - Awards For All for an allotment incentive within the school grounds.

Reviewing Controls and Managing Risks

- Budget holders have the ability to interrogate their financial status by using a web based facility within our financial system Corero.
- We hold termly meetings with budget holders to ensure that spending is within their allocated budget.
- The School Business Manager has responsibility for the 1 credit card held by Ormesby.
- The Director of Resources and School Business Manager are the only staff to have access to online bank accounts. These 2 staff release all BACS payments made by Ormesby.

Lessons Learnt & Future Plans

- Ormesby wishes to re-develop their allotment area to allow more of the pupils, their families and the local community to get involved in growing their own fruit and vegetables and allow them to be outdoors more. Therefore we have applied for another Big Lottery Fund - Awards For All.
- To continue using internet for Best Value.
- Continue to train budget holders in Corero as necessary.

Signed: 

Name: ..Mr S Burrows.....

Academy Trust Accounting Officer

Date: 16 Dec 13