

Value for Money Statement

Academy trust name: The Holy Family of Nazareth Catholic Academy Trust

Academy trust company number: 8307881

Year ended 31 August 2013

I accept that as accounting officer of The Holy Family of Nazareth Catholic 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

- The trust has monitored student's progress and attainment outcomes by referring to internal and external results data.
- Staffing decisions have been made to ensure a good staffing-curriculum specialism match, to focus on interventions to closed the gap, and in particular to ensure the highest quality of teaching in English and mathematics.
- Additional teaching groups have been created in English and maths and graduate specialist support staff have been employed to support students who may be disadvantaged by their social circumstances.
- A new post of Director of Languages specialism was created to improve standards in languages. A language specialist also works in the primary feeders to ensure good transition to languages at secondary.
- A comprehensive Pupil Premium activity plan is leading to a successful focus on individual students needs and closing the gap interventions.
- Although All Hallows is currently the only academy-converted school within the trust structure this is not holding back collaborative working. The academy became a national support school and the principal, a national leader of education in July, consequently the academy benefits from a sharing best practice with other providers.

- The college is currently performing very well and judges itself in all areas to be maintaining excellent standards and outcomes. Levels of expected progress from KS2-4 are above national averages and above expected progress is on or above national averages in English and Maths. The performance at A Level is in the top 20% of schools. This educational data available is RAISE online 2012 and 2013 and in ALPS.
- The academy passed its first full financial audit with only minor recommendations being made showing appropriate spend on educational purposes.

Financial Governance and Oversight

- The Governing Body approve the annual budget forecast of the academy trust and five year budget projection on an annual basis ensuring that we remain financially robust in the short, medium and long term.
- The Finance and Resources Committee has six meetings a year in which it receives management reports to review the budget and to approve larger expenditure items and compliance with the academy trust's tender arrangements.
- The Academy has appointed a Responsible Officer who is a Governor. The role has been designated to Dains Accountants who visit for termly internal auditing.
- Capitation accounts are prepared and issued monthly to budget holders to enable regular monitoring to ensure Value for Money.

Better Purchasing

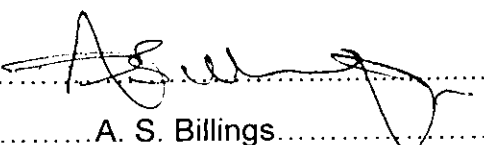
- The academy wants to achieve the best value for money from all its purchases.
- This means that they want to get what they need in the correct quality, quantity and time at the best price possible.
- A large proportion of their purchases will be paid for with public funds and they need to maintain the integrity of these funds by following the general principles of:
 - Probity, it must be demonstrable that there is no corruption or private gain involved in the contractual relationships of the academy;
 - Accountability, the academy is publicly accountable for its expenditure and the conduct of its affairs;
 - Fairness, that all those dealt with by the academy are dealt with on a fair and equitable basis.
- The Academy Tendering policy ensures that tenders/quotes are obtained as appropriate to ensure Value for Money with all major projects.
- The academy works collaboratively with its family of partner primary schools to secure best value. The academy received a 'primary partner grant' from the NCSL to enable it to establish a strategic partnership to research and negotiate with providers to secure economies of scale with the contracts and purchasing.

Income Generation

- The academy explores every opportunity to generate income by hiring its facilities and support to other schools and academies.
- The Romero Conference Centre is hired to external companies and the Sports Hall is used by local clubs during an evening.
- The academy is involved in the NLE programme and works with the SSAT to provide training.
- The academy generates income from languages provision to local primary schools.
- All surplus monies are actively managed and invested in interest bearing accounts.

Reviewing controls and managing risks

- The Principal and School Business Manager review the budget monitoring reports, considering expenditure against each budget code.
- The Finance and Resources Committee monitor the budget reports on a half termly basis.
- The Human Resources Committee receive budget information on a termly basis.
- The Governing Body approves on an annual basis the Handbook of Financial Procedures and Scheme of Delegation which details the systems and processes that are in place and the key financial policies.
- The Governing Body has produced a Risk Register and this is an item on every agenda. In addition, there is a special meeting held annually by Governors to review the Register and appraise the risks.

Signed: 

Name: A. S. Billings

Academy Trust Accounting Officer

Date: ... 17/12/2013