

Value for Money Statement

**Academy trust name: Northwood Primary School
Academy Trust**

Academy trust company number: 08405075

Year ended 31 August 2014

I accept that as accounting officer of **Northwood Primary 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 outcomes

All staff have had updated safeguarding training and the assistant headteacher and I have had training on the role of Child Protection Liaison Officer. Safer recruitment training for our governors is up to date and the school continues to successfully use positive behaviour management strategies. I am pleased to report that there have been no exclusions this academic year and attendance for the year was 96.14%.

Performance management has taken place for all teaching staff including myself and our targets are clearly linked to the School Development Plan. Two of our teachers are being used by the LA to moderate other EYFS settings, recognising their expertise in this area. I remain on the executive board of primary heads and am working in a group defining a vision for education across the Island, whilst also leading a research project on the Chimp Paradox Mind Management training for Isle of Wight school leaders.

The delivery of the mathematics curriculum has been completely restructured, all class based staff have received relevant training and a maths audit was undertaken by Hampshire County Council's maths adviser. The teaching of mathematics has

subsequently improved with an increased number of children achieving a level 5+ in Key Stage 2 SATs along with an increase in those making two or more levels of progress in mathematics (see table below).

Maths	2014	2013
Level 6	7%	0%
Level 5+	24%	13%
Level 4+	86%	91%
Level 3+	100%	100%
2+ Levels of Progress	83%	74%

Financial oversight

governance and

The Leadership and Management Committee is a sub-committee of the main Governing Body. Its purpose is to oversee the financial affairs and report as appropriate to the Governing Body. The committee met 6 times during the year. Areas of enquiry from governors included supply insurance costs, building maintenance, rates relief, pupil premium, high needs funding and balance brought forward from the previous accounting period. They have also considered the actuarial FRS17 local government pension report and the impact of the introduction of UIFSM.

The budget for 2014/15 was discussed by the committee and ratified by the full governing body on 9th July 2014. Discussions surrounding staffing structure included the return of staff from long term absence and maternity leave, class structure and the appointment of an additional teacher, additional teaching assistant support and the use of the PE grant to enhance sports provision in key stage 2. Buildings maintenance, learning resources, energy supply, broadband provision, UIFSM and EFA funding were also areas of discussion.

We have benchmarked our financial statements against other primary phase academies and no anomalies were noted.

Governors have been provided with a 'read only' login to the schools accounts system during this year.

Reviewing controls and managing risks

I meet with the school business manager on a daily basis and sign off all bank statements, bank reconciliations, staff absence, overtime and supply payments and

monthly payroll reports. As a small primary school we do not hold significant spare resources. I am of the opinion that there is a formal ongoing process for identifying, evaluating and managing the Academy's significant risks and this has been in place for the period 1 September 2013 to 31 August 2014 and up to the date of approval of the annual report and financial statements. This process is regularly reviewed by the Governing Body.

Best value

Governors and the senior leadership team have procedures in place for assessing need and obtaining goods and services which provide "best value" in terms of suitability, efficiency, time and cost. The academy trust remains a member of the Crescent Purchasing Consortium.

This year we commissioned an energy consultant to review our electricity and gas supplies and have secured two and three year fixed cost contracts respectively at the most favourable rate available.

We also reviewed our broadband supplier prior to the contract renewal date and the subsequent change in supplier has generated savings of £2,000 per annum with an increase in download speed from 10Mbps to 20Mbps.

Lessons learned

The sub-committee structure of the governing body has caused some problems with the number of meetings governors are required to attend as well as generating a certain amount of repetition that is not needed for a school of our size. Governance structure will be streamlined in the coming year to remove this unnecessary bureaucracy and to ensure that all governors are involved in key decision making.

Our pupil progress software shows us that pupil achievement in mathematics remains a priority for the school but that increased intervention in writing, particularly in boys' writing, is now also needed.

Contract renewal/expiry offers an ideal opportunity to revisit the market place and ensure that the school continues to receive maximum value from its suppliers. This is of particular importance when dealing with high cost supplies such as energy.

Signed: *S Hussey*

Name: Sarah Hussey

Academy Trust Accounting Officer

Date: 10 December 2014

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