

Value for Money Statement

Academy trust name: The Catholic Academy Trust in East Berkshire

Academy trust company number: 124344

Year ended 31 August 2013

I accept that as accounting officer of **St Mary's Catholic Primary 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 from the date of conversion – 1 July 2013 to the end of the 2012/2013 academic year.

The Local Governing Body (LGB) is accountable to the Directors of the Trust for the way in which the school's resources are allocated to meet the objectives set out in our School Improvement Plan (SIMP).

The LGB needs to secure the best possible educational and wider societal outcomes for pupils through the economic, efficient and effective use of all the resources in the Trust's charge.

The LGB apply the four principles of best value:

- | | |
|-----------|---|
| Challenge | Is the school's performance high enough? Why and how is a service provided? Do we still need it? Can it be delivered differently? What do parents want? Do we support the school's aims and strategies? |
| Compare | How does the school's pupils' performance and financial performance compare with all schools? How does it compare with local schools? How does it compare with similar schools? |
| Consult | How does the school seek the views of stakeholders about the services it provides? |
| Compete | How does the school secure efficient and effective services? Are the services of appropriate quality, economic and reviewed regularly? |

The LGB and school leaders apply the principles of best value when making decisions about:

- The allocation of resources to best promote the mission statement, aims and values of the our school;
- The targeting of resources to best improve standards and quality of provision;
- The use of resources to best support the various learning needs of all pupils, staff, parents and governors;
- The use of resources to best support the local community.

The LGB and school leaders:

- Make comparisons with other/similar schools using data provided by the Government and LA eg: Raise online, quality of teaching and learning and levels of expenditure;
- Challenge proposals, examining them for effectiveness, efficiency and cost eg setting of annual pupil achievement targets;
- Require suppliers to compete on the grounds of cost, the quality/suitability of services/products/backup;
- Consult individuals and organisations on quality/suitability of service we provide to parents and pupils, and services we receive from providers;
- Introduce initiatives and research areas of additional funding.

The LGB and school leaders will:

- Not waste time and resources on investigating minor areas where few improvements can be achieved;
- Not waste time and resources to make minor savings in costs;
- Not waste time and resources by seeking tenders for minor supplies and services.

The pursuit of minor improvements or savings is not cost effective if the administration involves substantial time or costs. Time wasted on minor improvements or savings can also distract management from more important or valuable areas.

This will apply in particular to:

- staffing
- use of resources
- quality of teaching
- quality of learning
- purchasing
- pupils' welfare
- health and safety

Monitoring

These areas will be monitored for best value by:

1. Monitoring by the Head teacher, senior management team (SMT) and subject leaders by such methods as classroom practice and work sampling
2. Termly target setting meetings between the Head teacher and teaching staff
3. Annual performance management
4. Annual budget planning
5. Monthly budget monitoring
6. Regular review of contracts and services purchased
7. Analysis of school pupil performance data
8. Analysis of DfE financial data, benchmarking
9. Analysis of DfE/Ofsted pupil performance data eg Raise online
10. Ofsted inspection reports
11. Lesson observations
12. LGB committee meetings
13. LGB and ATC meetings

Signed: *Janice M Raycock*
Name: *JANICE MARIE RAYCOCK*
Academy Trust Accounting Officer
Date: *14/1/14*