

Value for Money Statement

Ardley Hill Academy

08006892

Year ended 31 August 2014



I accept that as accounting officer of [Ardley Hill Academy](#) 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:-

The Governors of Ardley Hill Academy are committed to achieving Best Value in all decisions made. We use the principles of Best Value as they apply to securing continuous improvement in this school and will:

- regularly review the functions of the academy, challenging how and why services are provided and setting targets and performance indicators for improvement;
- monitor outcomes and compare performance with similar schools/academies and within the academy;
- consult appropriate stakeholders before major decisions are made
- promote fair competition through quotations and tenders to ensure that goods and services are secured to a high standard and quality and in the most economic, efficient and effective way.

We will strive to ensure that the academy is using its resources effectively to meet the needs of pupils.

We will submit our Best Value statement with the annual budget plan. The progress of the annual budget plan and the Best Value statement will be monitored with the Academy Development Plan in order to determine the extent of continuous improvement.

The academy has in place a strategy and a set of guidelines, updated annually, which will ensure that Best Value will be reviewed and demonstrated.

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This year we will focus on :-

- Developing differentiation in all classrooms
- Narrowing the gap between groups of pupils
- Ensuring pupils in KS2 meet their challenging targets
- Improving outcomes for 4+ children to exceed national expectations
- Continuing to develop sources of revenue – promoting lettings to parents and other organisations, extend the holiday club and out of hours club provision.
- Continuing to monitor the contracts we have to ensure that we get good value for money (grounds maintenance, reprographics) and to monitor all spending needs to ensure we are getting the best value for money.
- Focus on tender applications to ensure we achieve best value with building contracts as the academy grows into a Primary academy.

Targeted improvement: We have focussed on improving the standard of teaching across the academy which has led to a marked improvement ensuring all teaching is at least **Good** with much of it being **Outstanding**.

Focus on individual pupils: TA's have been appointed to support specific groups of children across the academy including SEN – Literacy and numeracy, G&T – writing and numeracy, Pupil Premium and specific behaviour and welfare issues.

Collaboration: We have shared training with local schools to enable us to buy in the best training, but keep under budget by sharing experience and cost with them. Also we have joined a teaching school alliance to ensure quality and cost control over future training and development needs.

New initiatives: The governing body has undergone a restructure to ensure much greater focus on issues that are relevant. The new sub committees will mean more robust, challenging and concise meetings.

Quantifying improvements: All results are up this year. We have successfully reversed a two year downward trend in KS2 which still remains below national levels and will be our main focus for development this coming year. 4+ are improving but again their results are lower than national average. We have put a program of development and support in place that will ensure national levels by the end of this academic year. Our attendance is **Outstanding**. The financial situation is safe this year, even with the £45,000 less in our expected carry forward.

Financial governance and oversight: The finance committee does a good job of asking challenging questions regarding the budget as a whole and specifics within the budget. There have been a lot of improvements made to the academy and the governors have had to scrutinise each one.

One of the key things the finance committee are overseeing is that the academy has a large income from the preschool which is effectively supporting these developments throughout the academy over the next few years. All in all we are happy that we have allocated funds effectively and provided the best outcome for pupils in the use of those funds.

Fitness for purpose: We obtain quotes for work to be undertaken where appropriate and judge not only on cost, but also quality of workmanship. This year one of the main considerations was heating improvements for our swimming pool and upgrading the room thermostats for the main building. We also employed a surveyor to advise on plans for extending our building as we grow.

Benchmarking: At present our expenditure is higher than other similar organisations as we are going through such a rapid time of growth. We expect to see this level off in two to three years as the influx of staff and children steadies.

Options appraisal: We are constantly assessing against all options as we grow.

Economies of scale: This is not an area we have looked much at beyond training events.

Better income generation: Our preschool and swimming pool are the jewels in our crown. The swimming pool is used by the whole community including other local schools and academies as well as our own children. The income from this goes a long way towards supporting the heating and maintenance costs. The preschool income is actually providing funds to build extensions to the academy to house the extra year groups as we grow into a primary academy.

The Out of hours club raised £5,000, an all time high, last year and is expected to double it's income this year.

Reviewing controls and managing risks: We have all measures in place that are effective in ensuring a good level of control, and are thoroughly reviewing these this year. Regular budget reports are received by both the finance and full governing body committees. We have developed our risk management to ensure it is as effective as the other areas of control and management.

Lessons learned: We are constantly reviewing expenditure against best value and maximum impact on learning. This has resulted in more and more children attending the academy and preschool and therefore created greater funds for the following year. We have of course made mistakes along the way and have always been honest as a governing body and reflected on these to improve.

Signed by governors:

Dated:

Signed:

Name:

Academy Trust Accounting Officer

Date: