

Value for Money Statement

Organisation name: Mordiford Church of England Primary School

Company number: 8738224

Year ended 31 August 2014

I accept that as accounting officer of Mordiford Church of England 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 during the academic year.

Value for Money Statement 2014

Year ended 31st August 2014

I took up post in September 2014 and set out below how the previous Head teacher has ensured that the academy trust used its' resources to provide good value for money during the academic year.

We have strict internal controls and regularly monitor the budget, investigating anomalies and potential overspends. Budget reports are discussed monthly and financial reports are presented to the Governors termly to discuss the current position and to make decisions on spending. Bank reconciliations are performed on a monthly basis to monitor cash flow. We are able to show that we have considered the risks of irregularity and fraud and have measures in place to avoid these. A recent external audit highlighted that we have good systems in place for monitoring the budget and our cash flow.

The school benefits from membership of the Activate network of schools. This consists of over 30 local primary schools working collaboratively to deliver high quality Professional Development for all staff. For example the majority of teaching staff undertook Progression in Maths training, which was highlighted as an area for development on the school improvement plan. The training has focussed on developing skills in the assessment and progression of maths skills ensuring that individual needs are quickly identified and effectively addressed. As an Academy we regularly look at our services and contracts to monitor if they need to be renegotiated to ensure the best mix of effectiveness and quality of provision for the best price. For example in April it was decided not to buy back into the Local Authority Governor Support service, making a saving of £800. Governor support is now sourced from the Diocese and from the Herefordshire Association of Governors. A saving of £700 was also negotiated when appointing the firm of accountants to work with the Academy. An Apprentice Office Assistant was employed in September 2014 to help with the smooth running of the School Office and to allow the School Office Manager and Financial Assistant to focus upon the business management of the Academy.

Annually the school carry out a price comparison on our regular stock orders to see if current suppliers are still the best value for money. In addition the school always considers special offers and deals, for example in June a 20% saving was made on the total annual purchase cost of classroom stationery for the following academic year. This was achieved by taking advantage of a summer sale with our supplier. Three quotes are obtained for larger purchases and as an Academy we consider a number of factors when purchasing resources for the school. These include quality, price and sourcing local supplies and services where practicably possible.

During the financial year we have received grant funding from the British Council Comenius project which has enabled children to learn from a range of other cultures and for staff to develop professionally by visiting schools in Northern Ireland, Spain, Poland and Turkey and thus bringing back invaluable learning experiences and resources to share. A grant of £2050 to fund a Curriculum week with a maths theme was obtained from the Ernest Cook Trust. This enabled a subscription to the My Maths website, theatre productions for all Key Stages and a Maths Clown to work in school.

Targeted groups of pupils have benefited from bespoke support programmes such as Literacy Tool Box and Power of One and Two maths intervention programmes. Lower attaining pupils made better than expected progress from KS1 to KS2. Deployment of targeted Teaching Assistant time and the use of the aforementioned resources helped to secure the progress for the children. A change to the teaching of Phonics across the school, an investment in grammar and spelling training for staff and use of Literacy Coordinator time helped to ensure that the children achieved a 86% pass rate in the Y1 Phonic Screen compared to the county average of 69% and national average of 74%. Money invested in PE (from the Sport Premium Funding) resulted in increased competition and participation in sport. Our Year 6s were successful in winning tournaments, raising their self-confidence and demonstrating the wider opportunities we provide as a school.

The school strategic plan was followed to bring about the funding for a 7th classroom. The rationale behind this decision was to allow for single year group teaching to take place. All classes in the school will be below 25 in size thus ensuring that the children have every chance at reaching their full potential. Planning application was approved and the restructure of the school took place in July and August 2014. This change also brought about a staffing restructure in July 2014. Savings will be made as a result in the following academic year. This is due to the appointment of a new head teacher lower down on the leadership scale, the appointment of a teacher for the new 7th classroom at M1 (the lowest point on the scale) and following the resignation of a teaching assistant their hours were distributed among our existing TA's rather than appointing a replacement. Provision for ICT development has been centred upon the provision of new whiteboards and PC's as the school moved towards becoming a seven class school in September 2014.

A privately run pre-school, Mordiford Dragons, operates from our site, which generates a rental income for the school and we try to promote the use of school buildings for lettings from groups such as the Parish Council.

An area identified for improvement for the following academic year is that wherever possible we will request annual service charges to be invoiced on a monthly or quarterly basis so that the cost can be evenly spread over the financial year. This will then minimise the impact on our cash flow.

In addition we are looking to explore more efficient methods of communicating with parents such a e-mail and text , therefore after initial set up costs we will make a saving on the costs of paper and ink supplies.

Name: Miss Kerri Finney
Academy Trust Accounting Officer

Date: 18 Dec 2014