

Harrowbarrow School Academy Trust

Value for Money Statement

Year ended 31st August 2013

Company number 7770592

I accept that as accounting officer at Harrowbarrow 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 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 governing body is accountable for the way in which the school's resources are allocated to meet the objectives set out in the school's development plans. Governors need to secure the best possible outcomes for pupils, in the most efficient and effective way, at a reasonable cost. This will lead to continuous improvement in the school's achievements and services.

Improving educational results:

We have ensured that resources are directed where they are most needed and most effective in meeting educational requirements, for example by:

- Targeting continuous professional development and resources at the key areas identified in the school improvement and post Ofsted action plan.
- Deploying staff to accelerate the performance of groups and individuals, including those in receipt of Pupil Premium Funding.
- Monitoring the performance of particular staff, and ensuring that relevant action is taken to address weaknesses.

Financial governance and oversight:

Our governance arrangements include regular monitoring by the Governing Body and its committees, including the Finance, Staffing and Audit Committee. They receive regular reports, and ask relevant questions as recorded in the minutes.

The work of these committees is further informed by regular Responsible Officer reports from the appointed Cornwall Local Authority LFS technician.

Better purchasing:

Examples of steps taken to ensure better purchasing include:

- Undertaking the tender process using the CPC framework for school insurance.
- Liaising with other cluster schools and business managers to get information about products/services prior to making purchases.

- Tendering for capital improvement projects using an evaluation of tenders for small scale projects based on pre-agreed criteria.

Better income generation:

The governors have explored opportunities to generate additional revenue streams, but due to the size, location and limited facilities at the school there have been limited opportunities to generate reliable revenue streams.

Reviewing controls and managing risks

We have undertaken this in the following ways:

- Half termly budget reports are reviewed by the Finance, Staffing and Audit Committee to ensure that spending is within budget.
- Monthly checks and reports by the Responsible Officer.
- Annual review of the financial risk register.
- Upgrading the printer for producing cheques, in line with the Local Authorities anti-fraud advice.

Future objectives:

We recognise the need to restructure our staffing, incorporating a Deputy Headteacher role to strengthen the leadership of the school. As well as advancing the educational performance of the school, this will ensure succession planning arrangements are in place as identified in the risk register.

Signed: ... 

Name: .. 

Academy Trust Accounting Officer

Date: ... 