

Value for Money Statement
Accrington St Christopher's CE High School – A Church of England Academy
Academy trust company number: 7728029
Year ended 31 August 2015

I accept that as accounting officer of Accrington St Christopher's CE High 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.

The Governing Body is committed to ensuring that the school's resources are used in the most efficient and effective manner to meet the objectives and priorities identified in the School Improvement Plan. This will lead to continuous improvement in the school's performance and secure the best possible outcomes for pupils.

The Governing Body applies the principles of Best Value by:

Challenge

Governors regularly review the functions of the school, challenging how and why services are provided and setting targets and performance indicators for improvement.

1. Undertake self-evaluation to identify strengths and weaknesses and linking this to the setting of priorities and the allocation of resources e.g. GCSE results low so allocated resources for additional booster classes.
2. Setting of annual pupil achievement targets based on prior attainment and contextual value added measures e.g. KS3 targets, GCSE targets set with School Improvement Partner annually in October.
3. Undertaking performance management of staff including setting of performance targets and analysis of training needs e.g. Cycle completed by end of September for all teaching staff and by February for non-teaching staff.
4. Review school management structure annually e.g. appointment of new staff for development of sixth form.
5. Identify alternative providers when existing contracts expire e.g. waste provision.

Compare

Governors monitor outcomes and compare performance with similar schools.

1. Making comparisons with similar schools on pupil outcomes using RAISE On-line and the Lancashire School Information Profile e.g. Curriculum Group and scrutiny of Lancashire School Information Profile annually as soon as published.
2. Comparing costs with similar Academies using appropriate comparison models available and present finding to Governors' Finance & Audit Committee to be reviewed annually.
3. Raise levels of achievement in classes where pupil achievement requires improvement through careful allocation of resources e.g. pupil premium

Consult

Governors consult appropriate stakeholders especially pupils and parents, about the services which the school provides

1. Annual consultation with parents using questionnaire e.g. Full questionnaire to parents (though not every year). Regular questionnaire e.g. at Parents' Evenings etc.
2. Annual use of the Pupil Attitude Questionnaire (PAQ) e.g. analysed by Heads of Year.
3. Full involvement of staff in identifying and agreeing school priorities to inform the school improvement plan e.g. Staff School Improvement Group meets termly.
4. Consultation with staff included in participation in wellbeing projects and maintains Healthy Schools Status.
5. Develop consultation procedures with support staff – e.g. regular staff meetings and one to one meetings.
6. Review consultation arrangements with parents to improve participation.
7. Establish a community consultation group to contribute to self-evaluation.

Compete

Securing competition to ensure that goods and services are purchased in the most economic, efficient and effective manner to meet the needs of the school.

1. Use of quotes, tenders for procurement of goods and services in accordance with Standing Orders for schools e.g. Information system.
2. Internal Financial Regulations are in place in line with the Academy Financial Handbook and Accounts Direction and annually reviewed by Finance & Audit Committee.
3. Use all means available to identify suppliers and review effectiveness of facility – obtain regular quotations for goods and services.
4. Constant review of options for acquiring resources, ICT, capital projects including grants etc.

Accounting Officer

R Jones