

Review of value for money.

As accounting officer, I have responsibility for ensuring that the academy trust delivers good value in the use of public resources. I understand that value for money refers to the educational and wider societal outcomes achieved in return for the taxpayer resources received.

I consider how the trust's use of its resources has provided good value for money during each academic year, and reports to the board of trustees where value for money can be improved, including the use of benchmarking data where available.

I have delivered improved value for money during the year by:

- Staff and governors are ambitious for the pupils to ensure they gain the best start to their education. Attainment and progress for all pupils, including vulnerable groups, make exceptional progress compared to those in other schools.
- A high proportion of the school's financial resources are spent on staffing. The school has high quality teaching and non-teaching staff and this is reflected in the outcomes for children.
- Class sizes are continuing to grow with the school NOR increasing.
- There are efficient and effective partnerships between teaching and non-teaching colleagues which benefits children of all abilities, especially pupil premium and pupils with special needs to establish positive health and mental wellbeing.
- In order to achieve progress and improve on it, school funds, and in particular the pupil premium funding and PE premium, is targeted for improvement in the form of small group tuition and activities for those pupils who have been targeted as underachieving or needing extra support. Performance of disadvantaged children is tracked termly.
- Staff professional development is closely linked to the school improvement plan. All professional development is cascaded to colleagues across the school in after school INSET meetings.
- There is a robust performance management system in place.
- Governors ensure that the school finance policy is adhered to. Procedures are in place to ensure that resources purchased are appropriate and are ordered in accordance with the correct procedures. Large items of expenditure are reviewed and authorised by the governing body prior to purchase. A minimum of three quotes are obtained for items of a value of more than £5,000. Governors decide on which quote is appropriate based on best value for money for the school.
- The SMT and governors receive regular budget reports, future year forecasts, reviews of income and expenditure (including variations) from the school bursar.
- We explore efficiencies of scale where possible (including staff training through a local teaching school alliance and sharing of costs of resources), thereby reducing administration and the cost of procurement.

Signed: 

Mrs Phil Millward

Accounting Officer for Asfordby Hill Primary School

Date: 8/1/19