



Sandbach School Value for Money Statement For the year ended 31 August 2013

The accounting officer, Mrs Sarah Burns, accepts that she is responsible and accountable for ensuring that Sandbach School delivers good value in the use of public resources. The Accounting Officer is aware of the guide to academy value for money statements published by the Education Funding Agency and understands that value for money refers to the educational and wider societal outcomes achieved in return for the taxpayer resources received.

The Accounting Officer sets out below how it has been ensured that the academy trust's use of its resources has provided good value for money during the academic year.

Sandbach School is an advocate of the four principles which underpin Best Value:

1. **CHALLENGE** why and how a service is being provided;
2. **COMPARE** performance with that of others across a range of relevant indicators, taking into account the views of service users and potential suppliers;
3. **CONSULT** with service users and the community in setting new performance targets; and
4. **COMPETE** in order to secure efficiency and effectiveness.

Leadership and Management

The Leadership Group and Governors of the school will apply the principles of best value when making decisions about:

- The allocation of resources to best promote the aims and values of the school.
- The targeting of resources to best improve standards and the quality of provision.
- The use of resources to best support the various educational needs of all pupils.

The Leadership Group and Governors will

- Make comparisons with other/similar schools using data provided by the Local Authority and the Government.
- Challenge proposals, examining them for effectiveness, efficiency, and cost.
- Require suppliers to compete on grounds of cost, and quality/suitability of services and products.
- Consult individuals and organisations on the quality and suitability of service that the school provides to parents and pupils, and services received by the school from providers.

The Leadership Group and Governors have adopted the following approach to the specific expenditure areas outlined below:-

Staffing

Staff will be deployed to provide the best value in terms of quality of teaching, quality of learning, adult-pupil ratio and curriculum management.

Use of Premises

The Leadership Group and Governors will consider the allocation and use of teaching areas, support areas and communal areas, to provide the best environment for teaching and learning, for support services, and for communal access to central resources, e.g. the library.

Use of Resources

Equipment, materials and services will be deployed to provide pupils and staff with resources which support quality of teaching and quality of learning.

Teaching and Learning

The quality of curriculum provision and quality of teaching will be reviewed to provide parents and pupils with a curriculum which meets the needs of the pupils and teaching which builds on previous learning and has high expectations of children's achievement.

Purchasing

The Leadership Group and Governors will develop procedures for assessing need, and obtaining goods and services which provide 'best value' in terms of suitability, efficiency, time and cost. Measures already in place include:-

- Competitive tendering procedures.
- Procedures for accepting best value quotes which are not necessarily the cheapest (e.g. suitability for purpose and quality of workmanship)
- Procedures which minimise office time by the purchase of goods or services under £1,000 direct from known, reliable suppliers.

Pupils welfare

The quality of the school environment and ethos will be reviewed in order to provide a supportive environment for teaching and learning and extracurricular.

Health and Safety

The quality of the school environment will be reviewed and risk assessments carried out where appropriate, in order to provide a safe working environment for pupils, staff and visitors.

Governor challenge, awareness and oversight of Academy Trust finances

The Academy benefits from the provision of a suitably qualified Finance Committee which reviews key financial policies, systems and procedures, including the use of tenders. Auditors present reports on compliance to the Finance and Audit Committee.

The Finance and Audit Committee receive monthly budget monitoring reports. Full explanations of budget variances are provided and the Accounting Officer has day to day access to all staff involved in purchasing.

The full Governing Body approves the budget each year and is mindful of the need to balance expenditure against income to ensure a secure financial foundation for the Academy Trust. The Governing Body also receives and approves the Annual Accounts and the External Auditors Management Report.

Income generation

The Academy generates income through entrepreneurial activity, seeking grants and income sources outside education.

The Academy Leadership Group reviews expenditure within each budget heading annually and makes adjustments based on the effectiveness of strategies introduced in previous years, curriculum offer and any new strategies identified in the Academy Development Plan.



Mrs S I Burns

16th December 2013

Academy Accounting Officer