

Value for Money Statement

Academy trust name: Great Sankey High School

Academy Trust Company Number: 08313108

Year ended 31 August 2014

I accept that as accounting officer of Great Sankey High School Academy Trust I am responsible 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 academy'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 academy's performance and secure the best possible outcomes for students.

PRINCIPLES OF BEST VALUE

The governing body applies the principles of best value:

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| Challenge | regularly reviewing the functions of the academy, challenging how and why services are provided and setting targets and performance indicators for improvement.
Challenging proposals and examining them for effectiveness, efficiency and cost. |
| Compare | monitoring outcomes and comparing performance with similar academies |
| Consult | consulting appropriate stakeholders especially students and parents, about the services which the academy provides |
| 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 academy. |

APPLICATION OF BEST VALUE PRINCIPLES

Examples of current academy practices which demonstrate the application of Best Value principles and any planned developments in academy policy and practices to enhance Best Value within the academy are identified in this statement.

Improving educational results:

We have ensured that resources are directed to where they are most needed and most effective in improving outcomes for all students for example by:

- Targeting resources in key areas such as literacy, numeracy and phonics
- Targeting support where it is most needed, for example Pupil Premium and SEN students
- Focusing on the needs of particular students and ensuring that the support they receive is relevant to them.
- Implementing a staff performance management system which ensures staff consistently deliver outstanding Teaching and Learning opportunities
- Further developing our School Direct programme and school to school support to support, encourage and raise attainment across other schools and to share good practice

The effectiveness of these strategies is monitored and evidenced in the level of progress made by our students across KS2-KS4.

Financial and governance oversight:

The governing body now receives regular monitoring reports and is active in its role as critical friend. Governors are encouraged to challenge decisions and ask relevant questions.

Better purchasing:

Examples of steps to ensure value for money during the procurement process include:

- Review all contracts annually
- Review the formal tendering process for major purchases of supplies and services
- Requesting references from other schools when contracting with a new supplier

Income generation:

Income generation potential is maximised by:

- Working in partnership with community groups to generate income through lettings of facilities

Reviewing controls and managing risks:

Regular budget monitoring reports are now in place and issued to budget holders, the Senior Leadership Team and governing body. An audit and risk committee is to be established to regularly review controls and risks to the academy.

Actions taken to manage risk include:

- obtaining an appropriate level of insurance cover acquired through a competitive tendering process
- professional expertise is sought for specialist advice where needed

Future Objectives:

- To explore working in partnership with a lettings company to better market and manage lettings
- To manage and operate staffing levels at approximately 80% of income
- Implement robust Asset Management system
- To review the Best Value statement at each Autumn Term meeting

Signed:



Name: A Davies
Academy Trust Accounting Officer

Date:

17/12/14