

Value for Money Statement

Academy Trust Name – West Hill School

Academy Trust Number – 7697027

Year ended 31.08.2014

I accept that as accounting officer of West Hill School I am responsible and accountable for ensuring that the academy trust delivers good value for money 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 social outcomes delivered in return for the taxpayer resources received.

I set out how I have ensured that the academy trust's use of its resources has provided good value for money during the academic year.

Improving educational results

We have in continued to develop pupil focussed intervention strategies and deployed these where they are most needed and have particularly targeted literacy and numeracy to embed skills across the whole curriculum. Initiatives to narrow the gap for our pupil premium cohort have been implemented and these are under continuous monitor to measure success criteria. Professional development for all staff is quality assured to ensure that it fits with the school improvement plan. For teaching staff in particular the focus has been on the development and effective use of data through assessment, tracking and monitoring of pupils performance, whilst learning support assistants have worked closely with the SENCO and subject teachers to ensure that differentiation is understood and widely used.

The Academy tracks the attendance and behaviour of all its pupils. Attendance for the academic year ending August 2014 was just over 96.0% which is in the top 40% of all schools nationally.

Financial Governance and oversight

Regular visits from the appointed responsible office provide an external view of how the finances of the academy are being managed. This report is made direct to the finance committee and any recommendations made are discussed at the governor meeting. To date there have been no recommendations.

Involvement of the finance committee through regular meetings where robust reporting on financial transactions enables members to probe deeper into the financial affairs of the academy, ask pertinent questions and, where they feel appropriate, challenge the responses given. Through this level of interaction the governors are able to understand how we arrive at the decisions we make. During the last academic year members of the finance committee have been present when bids for projects have been opened and have also attended project progress meetings to ensure that they remain satisfied that projects remain within both time scales and budget.

The finance committee reports to the full governing body of the academy who in turn will, as they see appropriate, question further the financial management of the academy.

Improved purchasing

Contracts and services are regularly reviewed and renegotiated when appropriate to ensure value for money,

Where quotations are required for expensive items we ensure that the academy processes for such items is followed accurately ensuring that we have obtained a sufficient number of quotes and that these are based on the same requirements. References are also sometimes obtained from other end users for information on the performance of a supplier before any final decisions are made.

The Academy always assesses the cost benefits of various options before making a decision to ensure that the right option for the longer term.

Income generation

The Academy explores every opportunity to generate income through its own facilities and accessing grants that maybe be available to it.

Reviewing controls and managing risks

Governors receive regular and informative information about the finances of the academy and are able to make more informed decisions about how best to employ cash resources accumulated through robust financial planning.

The trustees of the academy would not enter into any interest making deposit facility where the principle sum could be at risk.

Signed: _____

Name: Robert Hewitt

Academy Trust Accounting Officer

Date: _____