

Value for Money Statement

The Godolphin Junior School

Academy trust company number: 08107863



Year ended 31 August 2014

I accept that as Accounting Officer of The Godolphin Junior 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 past academic year. In doing so, I have considered how best I can ensure:

- The economic, efficient and effective use of all resources to improve educational results
- The avoidance of waste and extravagance
- The prudent and economical administration of our Academy Trust
- The maintenance of financial governance, including robust controls on expenditure, keeping and reporting up to date financial records, continuous financial monitoring and reporting to all concerned parties
- Value for money in all transactions

A key objective is to achieve value for money not only for the organisation itself but for the taxpayer more generally. Whilst we live within our budget and utilise resources properly and with probity, we continuously strive to improve both the educational and wider societal outcomes for our pupils within the resources available. In addition, we endeavour to ensure our school is a safe and caring environment which is an outstanding place to both learn and work.

Improving Educational Outcomes

Targeted Improvement: The Trust has kept the staffing structure under review and deployed staff efficiently to support cohorts, groups and or individuals to ensure that over time pupils make the necessary progress to achieve their targets. For example, through use of PPG funding, we employed a teacher to work in Year 4 with the aim that PPG pupils would make better than expected progress. The impact was the learning gap narrowed and in most cases closed.

Focus on Individual Improvement: The Trust has managed the differing needs of pupils for example, to ensure that the More Able Pupils (MAPs) in Mathematics achieved their targets the Maths Leader focussed some of her time to specifically teach these pupils with the result that 65% of the MAPs achieved Level 5. This is a 30% increase from the previous year and 13% above the national level.

Collaboration: Through close collaboration with a local secondary school, a member of their staff worked with our most able mathematicians. The impact was that 10% of our pupils achieved Level 6. This is a 4% increase from the previous year and 1% above the national average. In addition, through a buddying scheme, reading support was provided for some of our most challenged readers. 58 % of these pupils made accelerated progress over the year. Through links with other schools that have Resource Bases our staff who lead our own unit, gained further expertise and were able to improve our provision which has since been acknowledged as 'outstanding.'

New Initiatives: Through the effective use of funding we were able to offer pupils programmes of learning via. Sunday School, Easter School and Summer School. The positive impact was directly seen in the Year 6 Maths results and the transition into Year 3 and Year 6 for the most vulnerable pupils.

Quantifying Improvements: The Average Point Score for KS2 pupil attainment for the period 2013-14, showed a 1.6 point increase from the previous year and was 1.0 above the national average. Through the employment of a very effective Attendance Officer the attendance for the year was 96.6%.

Financial Governance and Oversight:

The Governing Body and Finance Committee receive regular financial reports including detailed budget monitoring reports. They monitor the school finances through review of the reports and by asking relevant questions – challenging where necessary (as evidenced in the minutes).

As well as the annual external audit which is conducted by the accountancy firm 'Landau Baker Ltd', 'mini audits' have been carried out by Slough & Eton Business Services in conjunction with the Responsible Officer to review and ensure the robustness of controls and processes in place.

Better Purchasing:

Examples of steps taken to ensure value for money when purchasing include:

- Exploring alternative purchasing options both on-line and direct through suppliers to find the best value e.g. a change of stationery supplier has resulted in reduced cost, better service and once established is expected to significantly reduce the time taken to prepare each order due to a bespoke on-line ordering system.
- Working with other local schools to identify products and services that can be procured jointly in order to reduce cost e.g. Broadband, HR and H&S contracts.
- The ICT team has been influential in driving down costs through better procurement and negotiation during 2013/14 e.g. all curriculum computers have been replaced at a very competitive cost.
- Contracts are regularly reviewed to ensure they are fit for purpose and provide best value.

Reviewing Controls and Managing Risks:

The Senior Leadership Team, Finance Team and budget holders are constantly reviewing budgets to ensure that spending is within budget. Any variance is discussed and future plans agreed and implemented.

Actions taken to manage risk include; the purchase of an appropriate level of insurance cover (in consultation with the school's insurance broker), an annual review of all significant financial risks by SLT and Governors, professional advice (for example from the HR and legal service providers) sought when needed.

Future Objectives:

We recognise the need to continue developing relationships with other academies and/or local schools, in order to benefit from economies of scale in procuring products and services, developing staff and sharing knowledge, skill and expertise. We also recognise the need to increase our funding streams by exploring other sources of external funding and this will be a key objective for 2014/15.

Name: Mrs Carol R Singh

Academy Trust Accounting Officer

Date: 10th December 2014

Accounting officer confirmations

Are you the accounting officer? *

yes no

I confirm that the trust's accounting officer has given me permission to complete this form on their behalf.

The accounting officer accepts that they are: *

responsible and accountable for ensuring that the academy trust delivers good value in the use of public resources

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