

THE PIGGOTT CHURCH OF ENGLAND SCHOOL
GOVERNANCE STATEMENT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2015

Governance Reviews

The Governing Body regularly reviews its structure and composition. In September 2014 a review of the organisation of the Governing Body was undertaken. The lead governor structure was complemented by the formation of 4 committees: finance, standards, achievement, learning and teaching (SALT), spiritual, moral, social and cultural (SMSC) and admissions. We retained the lead governor roles of SEN/equalities, safeguarding, facilities, leadership and management and staff & governor development. The roles of the committees and lead governors were reviewed to include reference, if applicable, to the PREVENT strategy and British values. This structure matches Governors' skills with areas of responsibility, and allows for continuous accountability.

Review of Value for Money

As accounting officer the Headteacher has responsibility for ensuring that the academy trust delivers good value in the use of public resources. The accounting officer understands that value for money refers to the educational and wider societal outcomes achieved in return for the taxpayer resources received.

The accounting officer considers 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. The accounting officer for the academy trust has delivered improved value for money during the year by:

1. Reviewing staffing costs and teaching structure to become more efficient. Introducing more family friendly practices which will aid recruitment, retention and motivation of staff.
2. Control of all expenditure through improving systems and procedures aiming to ensure the Academy has an official authorised order for all expenditure.
3. New procedures for actively chasing outstanding debtors.
4. Reviewing contracts for services and obtaining alternative quotes for all relevant suppliers.

The Purpose of the System of Internal Control

The system of internal control is designed to manage risk to a reasonable level rather than to eliminate all risk of failure to achieve policies, aims and objectives; it can therefore only provide reasonable and not absolute assurance of effectiveness. The system of internal control is based on an on-going process designed to identify and prioritise the risks to the achievement of the Academy Trust's policies, aims and objectives, to evaluate the likelihood of those risks being realised and the impact should they be realised, and to manage them efficiently, effectively and economically. The system of internal control has been in place in the school for the year ended 31 August 2015 and up to the date of approval of the annual report and financial statements.

Capacity to Handle Risk

The Governing Body has reviewed the key risks to which the Academy Trust is exposed together with the operating, financial and compliance controls that have been implemented to mitigate those risks. The governing body is of the view that there is a formal on-going process for identifying, evaluating and managing the Academy Trust's significant risks that has been in place for the year ended 31 August 2015 and up to the date of approval of the annual report and financial statements. This process is regularly reviewed by the governing body.

The Risk and Control Framework

The Academy Trust's system of internal financial control is based on a framework of regular management information and administrative procedures including the segregation of duties and a system of delegation and accountability. In particular, it includes:

- comprehensive budgeting and monitoring systems with an annual budget and periodic financial reports which are reviewed and agreed by the governing body;
- regular reviews by the Finance Committee of reports which indicate financial performance against the forecasts and of major purchase plans, capital works and expenditure programmes;
- clearly defined purchasing (asset purchase or capital investment) guidelines;
- delegation of authority and segregation of duties;
- identification and management of risks.

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The Governing body has considered the need for a specific internal audit function and has decided:

to appoint Crowe Clark Whitehill as a Responsible Officer to carry out a programme of internal checks

The Responsible Officers role includes giving advice on financial matters and performing a range of checks on the academy trust's financial systems. In particular the checks carried out in the current period included:

- Review of the control accounts and relevant reconciliations.
- Review of purchase ledger access.
- Testing of control account / bank reconciliations.

On an annual basis the Responsible Officer reports to the Governing Body through the Finance Committee on the operation of the systems of control and on the discharge of the board of trustees' financial responsibilities.

Review of Effectiveness

As Accounting Officer, the Headteacher has responsibility for reviewing the effectiveness of the system of internal control. During the year in question the review has been informed by:

- the work of the Responsible Officer;
- the work of the external auditor;
- the financial management and governance self-assessment process and;
- and the work of the managers within the Academy Trust who have responsibility for the development and maintenance of the internal control framework.

The Accounting Officer has been advised of the implications of the result of their review of the system of internal control by the Finance and General Purposes Committee and a plan to address weaknesses and ensure continuous improvement of the system is in place.

Approved by order of the members of the governing body on ^{3rd December} 2015 and signed on its behalf by:



Helen Craig
Chair of Governors



Derren Gray
Accounting Officer