

Value for Money Statement

Academy Trust name: The Piggott Church of England School

Academy Trust company number: 7682284

Year ended 31 August 2013

I accept that as accounting officer of **The Piggott Church of England 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 academic year.

Value for money in schools goes beyond the principles of economy, efficiency and effectiveness and develops it into the idea that close partnership with those served by the School and the effective use of resources leads to the raising of education standards and continuous improvement.

The principles of best value, referred to as the 4 c's are:

Challenge - is the Piggott School's financial performance effective? Why and how is a service provided? Does the Piggott School still need the service? Can it be delivered differently?

Compare - how does the Piggott School's financial and pupil performance compare with the performance of other schools?

Consult - how does the Piggott School seek the views of stakeholders on school services?

Compete - how does the Piggott School secure efficient, effective and quality services? Is the Piggott School getting value for money from suppliers?

Best value is a consideration in all purchasing decisions and an integral part of the Piggott School's planning cycle. This cycle begins with departmental and school improvement planning which feeds into the budget setting process in the spring and summer terms.

The four principles of best value are applied when making decisions about

Recruitment, retention and appraisal of staff

Staff are deployed to provide best value in terms of quality of teaching, quality of learning, staff-student ratio and curriculum management.

Deployment of classroom accommodation

Consideration is given to the allocation and use of teaching areas, support areas and communal areas to provide the best environment for teaching and learning, support services and central resources.

Deployment of resources, including ICT

Equipment, materials and services are deployed to provide students and staff with resources that support quality of teaching and quality of learning.

Teaching

The quality of curriculum provision and teaching is reviewed to provide students with a curriculum which meets the requirements of the National Curriculum as appropriate. Teaching should build on previous learning and incorporate high expectations of students' achievement

Learning

The quality of students' learning is reviewed by cohort, class and group, to provide teaching that enables students to achieve nationally expected progress.

Purchasing

Procedures are in place for assessing need, and obtaining goods and services that provide best value in terms of suitability, efficiency, time, and cost. Procurement guidelines included in the Financial Handbook are followed to ensure best value. Measures already in place include competitive tendering procedures for goods and services, and procedures for accepting best value quotations and purchasing certain goods or services from known, reliable suppliers. For longer term contracts, consideration will be given to the ability of the supplier to sustain the supply or service for the duration of the contract.

Students' Welfare

The quality of the Piggott School environment and ethos is regularly reviewed to provide a supportive environment conducive to learning and recreation.

Health and Safety

In order to provide a safe working environment for pupils, staff and visitors the quality of the Piggott School's environment and equipment is regularly reviewed; risk assessments are in place as needed.

Monitoring and Evaluation of Best Value criteria

The following mechanisms are applied in order to secure best value:

- Performance management, including an annual performance review, of the Headteacher by the Governing Body
- Annual Appraisal and target setting meetings between the Leadership Group and curriculum managers
- Internal monitoring through detailed department reviews by the Senior Leadership Team
- Internal Teaching and Learning evaluation under the School Self Evaluation Model
- Annual Budget Planning
- Analysis of the Piggott School's student performance data
- Benchmarking and regular information sharing among Business Managers of similar schools.
- OfSTED inspection reports
- Classroom observations under Performance Management/Appraisal
- Reports to the Governing Body.
- Review by Lead Governors responsible for specific aspects of the Piggott School

Signed:

Name:

Academy Trust Accounting Officer

Date: