

# Value for Money Statement

**Academy Trust name: The Piggott Church of England School**

**Academy Trust company number: 7682284**

**Year ended 31 August 2014**

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 year ending 31<sup>st</sup> August 2014.

## **Academic Results**

In the Academic year ending August 2014, students at The Piggott School achieved excellent examination results.

85% of A-level students were awarded A\*-C and achieved the highest A level average points score in Wokingham.

Attainment at GCSE was outstanding in 2014, 86% of students obtained at least 5A\*-C grades with 72% achieving this in Maths and English.

These results are a reflection of the hard work, determination and commitment of our staff, students and their parents. The results are supported by the high standard of teaching in the school. In 2014 100% of lessons observed were judged to be good or outstanding by Ofsted.

The Academic achievements are also supported by the high standard in behaviour and safety, in 2014 there were no permanent exclusions and the attendance for the year was 96.6%, significantly above the national average.

## **Development and Training**

We continue to recruit and train high quality teachers, in 2014 thirteen newly qualified teachers successfully passed their induction year. We successfully trained seven new teachers, three of whom are now employed by the school.

All staff are offered and encouraged to take part in professional development opportunities which include working for examining bodies and in primary outreach. The successful twilight inset programme helps spread good practice across the school and provides effective and value for money CPD opportunities.

## **Staffing**

With staffing costs being a significant portion of the school's annual expenditure, all appointments are given due consideration. Staffing requirements are reviewed annually when timetables are set for the new academic year. Staff are deployed across subject areas to achieve value for money and effective curriculum delivery.

## **Performance Management**

Teaching staff pay progression is linked to performance management. Progression decisions are made following performance management reviews, with clear links to teacher's standards and student progress.

## **Site improvements**

Following a large building project in 2013, in 2104 improvements were made to existing parts of the school, including the provision of 3 specialist ICT classrooms. This involved the installation of a lift to allow all pupils access to the first floor provision. Value for money was achieved in this project through a competitive tendering process. A combination of new and existing equipment was used create the ICT suites at minimum cost.

## **Maximise Income**

The school continues to identify additional sources of funding; in September 2013 we entered into an agreement with Nuffield Health, and benefitted from an investment in fitness equipment worth £100,000. This partnership includes the running of a membership gym out of school hours. The school will benefit from profit sharing from the gym, once the initial cost of investment has been met.

An application to the Football Foundation in April 2014 was successful. The Foundation will fund 50% of the costs of installing a new state of the art artificial football pitch. The grant is for £297,000, local football clubs have also contributed £30,000 to the project. The pitch will be installed in 2015 and will enhance the excellent sporting facilities at the school.

The school also works with local charities with the group Twyford Charities Together, collaborating on fundraising with mutual benefits. In 2013/14 donations from this group amounted to £9,000.

The Polehampton and Piggott trusts are both valuable supporters of the school who have contributed £8,000 to specific projects.

The school works closely with The Piggott School Association (PSA), with several very successful fundraising events during the year. In 2013-14, the PSA donated £20,000 to the school towards the costs of installing a new science laboratory.

## **Procurement**

Delivery of value for money is ensured through procurement and purchasing methods. 3 quotes are obtained for the purchase of goods with a value between £5,000 and £10,000. Purchases above £10,000 are made following a tender process.

The Finance team actively negotiates discounts and preferred suppliers are used for regular purchases at favourable prices. Network meetings with other school Business Managers and informal benchmarking exercises are regularly undertaken to assess expenditure and identify areas for possible cost reduction.

The school continues to buy traded services from the Local Authority, this is reviewed annually. For services such as education welfare, behaviour support, and school admissions, Wokingham has been identified as the best local provider and the experienced practitioners work well with the school. We have continued to purchase our energy (gas and electricity) through Wokingham Borough Council, and access the very competitive rates they are able to secure.

## **Governance**

The Governing body regularly reviews its structure and composition. With a change of Chair in September 2013, a thorough review of the organisation of the Governing body was undertaken, and a new structure based on Lead Governors replacing committees was implemented. This structure matches Governors' skills with areas of responsibility, and allows for continuous accountability.

Three new Governors were appointed during the year ending August 2014 who have specific skills and experience in Finance, they make up the Finance committee. The Finance committee meets termly with the Chair of Governors, Head Teacher, School Business Manager and Finance Officer. The Finance Committee reviews finance reports and sets the annual budget. Finance update is a standing agenda item at all Full Governing Body meetings which take place 10 times a year.

## **Accounts**

Our accounts for the year ending August 2014 have been audited by Crow Clarke Whitehill and are unqualified.

**Signed:** .....

**Name:** .....

**Academy Trust Accounting Officer**

**Date:** .....