

Value for Money Statement

Organisation name: Sandwich Technology School

Company number: 7401373

Year ended 31 August 2014

I accept that as accounting officer of Sandwich Technology 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.

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Introduction

The Governing Body is accountable for the way in which the school's resources are allocated to meet the objectives set out in the school's development plans. Governors need to secure the best possible outcome for students, in the most efficient and effective way, at a reasonable cost. This will lead to continuous improvement in the school's achievements and services.

What Is Best Value?

Governors will apply the four principles of best value:

§ Challenge - Is the school's performance high enough? Why and how is a service provided? Do we still need it? Can it be delivered differently? What do parents want?

§ Compare - How does the school's student performance and financial performance compare with all schools? How does it compare with similar schools?

§ Consult - How does the school seek the views of stakeholders about the services the school provides?

§ Compete - How does the school secure efficient and effective services? Are services of appropriate quality, economic?

The Governors' approach

The Governors and school leaders will apply the principles of best value when making decisions about:

§ the allocation of resources to best promote the aims and values of the school;

§ the targeting of resources to best improve standards and the quality of provision;

§ the use of resources to best support the various educational needs of all students.

Governors and the school leaders will:

§ make comparisons with other/similar schools using data provided by the Local Authority and the Government;

§ challenge proposals, examining them for effectiveness, efficiency and cost;

§ require suppliers to compete on grounds of cost and quality/suitability of services/products/backup;

§ consult individuals and organisations on quality/suitability of the services we provide to parents and students and services we receive from providers.

This will apply in particular to:

- § staffing;
- § use of premises;
- § use of resources;
- § quality of teaching;
- § quality of learning;
- § purchasing;
- § students' welfare;
- § health and safety.

Governors and school leaders:

- § will not waste time and resources on investigating minor areas where few improvements can be achieved;
- § will not waste time and resources to make minor savings in costs;
- § will not waste time and resources by seeking tenders for minor supplies and services.

The pursuit of minor improvements or savings is not cost effective if the administration involves substantial time or costs. Time wasted on minor improvements or savings can also distract school leaders from more important or valuable areas.

Staffing

Governors and school leaders will deploy staff to provide best value in terms of quality of teaching, quality of learning, adult/student ratio and curriculum management.

Use of premises

Governors and school leaders will consider the allocation and use of teaching areas, support areas and communal areas to provide the best environment for teaching and learning, for support services and for communal access to central resources.

Use of resources

Governors and school leaders will deploy equipment, materials and services to provide students and staff with resources which support quality of teaching and quality of learning.

Teaching

Governors and school leaders will review the quality of curriculum provision and quality of teaching to provide parents and students with:

- § a curriculum which meets the needs of students and the requirements of the National Curriculum;
- § teaching which builds on previous learning and has high expectations of children's achievement.

Learning

Governors and school leaders will review the quality of children's learning by cohort, class and group, to provide teaching which enables children to achieve nationally expected progress.

Purchasing

Governors and school leaders will develop procedures for assessing need and obtaining goods and services which provide "best value" in terms of suitability, efficiency, time, and cost. Measures already in place include:

- § competitive tendering procedures (as defined within our Financial Procedures Manual);
- § procedures for accepting "best value" quotes, which are not necessarily the cheapest (for example, suitability for purpose and quality of workmanship);
- § procedures which minimise office time by the purchase of goods or services under £1,000 direct from known, reliable suppliers (for example, stationery, small equipment).

Students' welfare

Governors and school leaders will review the quality of the school environment and the school ethos in order to provide a supportive environment conducive to learning and recreation.

Health and Safety

Governors and school leaders will review the quality of the school environment and equipment, carrying out risk assessments where appropriate, in order to provide a safe working environment for students, staff and visitors.

Monitoring

These areas will be monitored for best value by:

- § in-house monitoring by the Headteacher and the Leadership Team;
- § termly quality improvement meetings between line managers and their teams;
- § annual Performance Management;
- § annual Budget Planning;
- § Headteacher's monthly financial review;
- § Responsible Officer's monthly financial review;
- § at least one visit annually by an external adviser;
- § analysis of school student performance data;
- § analysis of LA student performance data;
- § analysis of DfE student performance data;
- § Ofsted inspection reports;
- § Governors' quality improvement visits;
- § Governors' sub committee meetings;
- § Full Governing Body meetings.

Linked policies

- § Financial Procedures Manual

Name: Ms Veronica Gomez
Academy Trust Accounting Officer

Date: 18 Nov 2014