

# Value for Money Statement

**Academy trust name: Goddard Park Community Primary School**

**Academy trust company number: 07351053**

**Year ended 31 August 2013**

I accept that as accounting officer of Goddard Park Community Primary 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.

**The Academy Trust is committed to:-**

## **1. Raising student attainment.**

The School has continued to improve outcomes for children. This is demonstrated by the three year trend in SATs results, with the 2012/13 academic year being the best yet for the School. At the end of KS1 the children achieved above the national average in both reading and writing. In KS2 the children attaining Level 4 and above in English increased by 5%, and in Maths by 1%. There was an increase of 5% of children attaining Level 4 and above in both English and Maths combined. The most striking improvement, though, is in the percentage of children achieving Level 5 in all subjects. This has increased from 13% to 25% in English, from 17% to 29% in Maths and from 6% to 20% in both English and Maths combined. Full details are available on the School website [www.goddardpark.co.uk](http://www.goddardpark.co.uk).

Examples of some initiatives to raise pupil attainment are:

- additional staffing to keep class sizes low and provide additional support in the classroom, thereby ensuring children receive individual attention;
- the employment of two learning mentors to support the most vulnerable children
- the employment of two teachers to support 'Reading Recovery' in 1:1 sessions.
- The employment of a 'Read, Write Inc' Manager to oversee the continued success of our Ruth Miskin phonics scheme.
- Programmes related to behaviour and pastoral support

Additional support is directed to those with the greatest need, defined by progress against targets, reading age and attendance.

The School has a fully embedded and developed tracking system for group and individual tracking of progress from Foundation Stage through to the end of Key Stage 2. As a result the School has evidence that pupils are making excellent progress.

Through various initiatives we have been successful in improving persistent absenteeism in each of the last 3 years, and overall attendance is broadly in line with the national average for schools with high levels of free school meals.

Our latest OFSTED Report from November 2013 identifies that Goddard Park is a 'Good' school in all areas, and specifically comments that:

- Teaching is good in all parts of the school and some is outstanding.
- Pupils achieve well over time because of the good teaching they receive.
- Children in the Early Years Foundation Stage make at least good progress from their starting points.
- Pupils behave well in and around the school and are proud of all they do.
- All leaders and managers, including governors, are committed and work together successfully to make sure that the school continues to improve.
- The pupil premium and sports funding are used imaginatively to provide effective support to different groups of pupils.
- Additional adult staff provide good help and guidance to those pupils who need extra support in their learning.
- Parents, carers and staff are positive about the school and its work with the community.

Collaboration – Goddard Park works closely with others in our local Cluster of schools. The headteachers meet regularly to share ideas, good practice and discuss issues. We support other schools with ICT technical support and, where appropriate, group purchasing to achieve value for money for all.

## **2. Robust governance and oversight of School finances**

The Academy's Governing Body has strong oversight of the financial management of the school finances. The Finance, Premises and Health and Safety Committee meets regularly to review the financial position, to receive reports and to challenge decisions. The Academy has an internal audit service provided by Financial Services 4 Schools who review our financial processes and internal controls four times a year and report their findings to the Finance, Premises and Health and Safety Committee. The levels of delegation on spending proposals ensure we take the necessary steps to achieve best value.

The Full Governing Body approves the budget each year and is mindful of the need to balance expenditure against income to ensure the School remains a 'going concern'. The Governing Body also receives and approves the Annual Accounts and External Auditors Management Report.

### **3. Ensuring the operation of the Trust demonstrates good value for money and efficient and effective use of resources**

All purchases are assessed to ensure they demonstrate good value for money. Three quotes are obtained for any purchases above £2,000 and a full tender exercise conducted for purchases above £20,000 to ensure that high value contracts are assessed against the marketplace. All contracts are reviewed regularly to ensure they continue to provide good value for money.

The School always considers the cost and benefits of all options before making a decision on significant purchases.

The School is a member of an internet forum which facilitates group purchases for a number of local schools to achieve best value. Our budget holders are trained to seek out the most competitive deals using various procurement tools such as internet shopping, advice from other schools and economies of scale.

### **4. Maximising income generation**

The School explores every opportunity to generate income through hire of School facilities and the provision of high quality fee paying daycare. In addition, our ICT Team provides support services to other schools, and our catering team provides lunch and refreshments for outside organisations. Income has also been generated by seconding staff to support other schools where appropriate.

### **5. Reviewing controls and managing risks.**

The School regularly reviews its Risk Management Strategy, Business Continuity Plan and Risk register. Budget reports are monitored on a regular basis by the Business Manager and the Headteacher and remedial action is taken to address any significant variances that may have an impact on budget outturn. Significant variances are reported termly to the Finance, Premises and Health and Safety Committee.

Insurance is currently provided by Ecclesiastical as part of a three-year contract awarded through a competitive tender using the Crescent Purchasing Consortium.

A Reserves policy is in place, which considers potential risks when calculating the optimum level of reserves held by the Academy.

Signed: ..... *Michael Welch* .....

Name: ..... MICHAEL WELCH .....

**School Trust Accounting Officer**

Date: ..... 6/12/2015 .....