

Value for Money Statement

Academy trust name : Gillotts

Academy trust company number : 07954417

Year ended 31 August 2014

I accept that as accounting officer of Gillotts 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 2013/14.

Improving results by:

- We have undertaken a detailed and rigorous review and analysis of the full range of reports available through SIMS to enable specific students to receive targeted interventions as appropriate (FSM, PP, SEN, more able). We are wishing to close the attainment gap between PP and other students.
- We have undertaken a rigorous review and evaluation of examination results, value added progress, student attendance.
- The School Development Plan is focussed on improving outcomes for example through improving student feedback.
- We have continued one to one provision after the end of specific funding - this is now available to all year groups as appropriate.
- We have a differentiated curriculum provision with alternative provision at KS4.
- We have developed a performance related pay policy for teachers that rewards day to day good and developing practice in the classroom
- We are a strategic partner of the Oxfordshire Teaching School Alliance to maximise CPD opportunities and continue to improve standards of teaching.
- A new collaborative company has been established (April 14) to further enhance close links with local partnership primary schools – this has brought opportunities for year 5s and 6s to spend time with us to ease transition and support the sharing of good practice.
- We continue to improve the take up of the school meals provision
- Revision classes were held during the Easter break and after school for GCSE students.
- School facilities are used by a local dance academy and cricket club on a regular basis and the school grounds were used to host the Oxfordshire UK Triathlon.

Financial Governance:

- We have rigorous procedures in place for establishing and reviewing the school budget.
- Quarterly internal checking reports are supported by our external auditor and have been presented at termly governor meetings alongside our full internal financial report.
- Annual external audit.
- Our Internal Financial Procedures handbook is reviewed annually by governors. It has been updated to include a detailed procedure for gifts, hospitality and benefits in kind.
- Contracts are regularly reviewed for cost/benefit. Tender procedures have been applied to a full network migration project and in the appointment of a new cleaning contractor.
- The addition of our annual DFC grant and some revenue funding to a recent EFA/Salix capital grant has enabled us to improve the extent of the project and gain economies of scale.

- A preferred suppliers list has been established.
- Financial outturn is materially in line with the budget plan.

Internal controls

- Detailed internal financial procedures manual available to all staff, reviewed annually by Governors
- The finance system blocks orders that would exceed available funds
- All orders have been reviewed by the Business Manager prior to authorisation and submission to supplier
- All invoices have been reviewed by the Headteacher and Business Manager for appropriateness
- Budget holders have received termly reports and interim reports on request and have been held accountable for budget management
- Value for money comparisons have been made for purchased supplies and services.

Lessons Learned

- The high proportion of funding that is spent on staffing means that proactive management of staffing levels, taking available opportunities to review the structure and current requirements, is key. This has been established as normal working practice.

Signed

Name : Catharine Darnton
Academy Trust Accounting Officer

Date :