



Value for Money Statement

Organisation name: St.Osmund's Middle School

Company Number: 08066279

Year ended 31 August 2014

I accept that as accounting officer of St. Osmund's Middle School. I am responsible and accountable for ensuring that the academy trust delivers good value for money 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's trust's use of its resources has provided good value for money during the academic year.

1 The Academy trust is committed to ensuring all pupils' achievement matches their God given potential.

At the end of Key Stage 2 85% of children attained level 4 or above in Reading, Writing and Maths combined (79% National). Children also made very good progress in English compared to their formal assessment at the end of Key Stage 1. We continue to work collaboratively with the First Schools to maximise progress in Maths.

In the course of the four years that the departing Year 8 pupils made significant progress (2 Levels Progress: Reading 73% Writing 76% Maths 98%).

The school strives to ensure that all children achieve their potential and the present focus is narrowing the gap between Pupil Premium children and Non Pupil Premium children in reading.

A number of intervention programmes are in place to meet the needs of target pupils identified by those in receipt of Pupil Premium funding; Year 7 Catch Up Funding and all pupils not making expected progress. Examples of these interventions are additional reading and comprehension support, ELSA counselling, and additional Maths 1-1 support.

Our targets for improvement for 2014 – 2015 are:

1. To improve achievement and attainment in KS3 Literacy and KS2 Numeracy.
2. To implement effective pupil intervention through a refined tracking system.
3. To provide a curriculum that prepares students for an active, fulfilling and successful life.
4. All pupils to develop resilience and sustain positive, healthy relationships.
5. To involve all stakeholders in the development of our learning community.

The Academy works closely in partnership with our colleagues within the DASP (Dorchester Area Schools Partnership) organisation. Staff meet regularly within subject, mini-pyramid and Heads of School meetings. Staff within the Academy lead aspects of the DASP Annual Improvement Plan.

2 Financial Governance and Oversight

The Academy benefits from the support of Rothmans Accountants who have provided the guidance in Academy practice and overseen the Finance structures through Darren Laidlaw one of their advisers and also through their auditing staff as our Official Auditors for the external audit.

Finance reports are presented to the Governing Body at all termly Full Governing Body Meetings. Budget monitoring reports, including forecasts for any pressures or underspends being presented to the Finance and Premises Committee.

The planned budgets are presented to Governors, challenged and agreed, along with any proposed projects. In order to achieve 'best value' it is a requirement that any projects costing £5,000 or above requires three quotations. A full explanation is required if any quote other than the lowest is chosen.

3 Purchasing

St. Osmund's Middle School works closely with other schools in the DASP group to compare contracts, process and levels of service and to work collaboratively in securing joint contracts. The Academy contributes to DASP service level agreements in a number of ways e.g. Employment of Sports Leaders through our Primary Sports Funding and DMIS.

4 Income Generation

The Academy generates further income through from occasional lettings as well as through fundraising and donations from the St. Osmund's Parent Teacher Association (PTA).

The appointment of a new School Business Manager in September 2014 will result in additional income streams being investigated.

5 Reviewing Control and Managing Risks

The recommendations made within the annual audit of accounts are reviewed and appropriate measures put in place to meet those requirements. As previously mentioned, budget monitoring reports are produced for the Finance and Premises Committee and Full Governing Body Meeting.

The Governors have agreed surplus reserves are invested in an appropriate deposit account.

The Academy uses Zurich Insurance to effectively manage risk.

Developmental Points for 2014 – 2015:

1. Submit an application to the EFA to fund a project titled '*St Osmund's Middle School Hall and Classroom Condition Improvement and Expansion*'.

The project has been designed to bring a much more strategic approach to the development of our site. If successful with the bid the main outcomes of the project would be:

- a. Provide Hot lunches for our children and become a hub kitchen for two other schools, one of which is a first school. These schools have limited dining facilities for the production of cooked meals.
 - b. This development will release the Academy from future costs relating to the heating of a poorly constructed building, alongside the financial risk of having to hire in temporary classrooms in the event of building failure.
 - c. Provide outstanding learning environment, by enabling our general teaching area to meet the minimum space standards for our age of pupils. This will match the current outstanding provision from our specialist areas.
 - d. Improve security to the site by relocating the main entrance and improving pedestrian access to the site.
 - e. Improvement to the facilities offered to the wraparound care that use our site and facilities but not directly run by our staff.
2. The new School Business Manager is developing contracts register to enable contacts and services to be appraised or renegotiated in order to achieve best value for money.
 3. The following recommendations from the Auditors management letter will also be addressed this year:
 - a. Improve monthly reconciliation process
 - b. Update the finance handbook/policy
 - c. Creation and maintenance of a fixed assets register