



Value for Money Statement

Hemlington Hall Academy

Academy Trust Company Number: 08803871

Year ended 31 August 2014

I accept that as Accounting Officer of Hemlington Hall Academy I am responsible and accountable for ensuring that the Academy delivers good value in the use of public resources. I am aware of the guide to academy value for money refers to the educational and wider social outcomes achieved in return for the taxpayers resources received.

I set out below how I have ensured that the Academy's use of its resources has provided good value for money during the academic year.

The Academy is committed to:-

1. Raising student attainment

Hemlington Hall Academy is a larger than average sized school which draws its pupils from a wide area. It was built 39 years ago to educate mainstream primary aged pupils. The school has a 10-place Infant Assessment Class which is accessed by Middlesbrough children aged 4-7 with learning difficulties and/or disabilities. Our base for pupils with learning difficulties was re-classified as a High Needs Base in January 2014. The HNB will increase by 50% to 15 children from 2014-15 due to the increasing needs and demand across the Authority. Most pupils come from White British backgrounds, though a very small number are from other ethnic backgrounds, some with English as an additional language.

A restructured Senior Leadership Team of headteacher, deputy headteacher and three senior leaders was formed in January 2011. Two middle leaders joined the team last year and collectively have had early and effective impact on broadening leadership responsibility across the school. Through the introduction of rigorous self-evaluation, they are developing a more consistent approach to encouraging staff to become more accountable for the children in their care, and for pupils to take greater ownership of their own learning and ensuring that all pupils receive clear and detailed guidance on how to improve their work. This is shared regularly with Parents, and we actively encourage their support throughout school.

2014 Y6 Cohort

43 children in cohort

1 was disapplied from all tests.

A second child was disapplied from Reading.

Subject and Level	% of cohort L4+	% of cohort L5+
Reading	84%	21%
Writing	79%	21%
Maths	70%	26% (incl 2 x L6)

The improvement in results has been achieved by placing a renewed emphasis on quality first teaching and ensuring that appropriate interventions are in place for children who require reinforcement or enhancement of the curriculum. Our school improvement plan drives any such improvement. Half-termly pupil progress meetings hold all staff to account for their actions. Ongoing embedded self – evaluation procedures including learning walks, focussed monitoring of SIP aspects, coaching and mentoring within lessons, peer support / team teaching, book and planning scrutiny and lesson observations enable us to identify limitations and address them swiftly within lessons. Our highly successful context-based curriculum includes a range of first-hand experiences will help to ensure that every child is given wider opportunities and achieves their full potential.

2. Robust governance and oversight of Academy Trust Finances

The Academy benefits from the provision by Mouchel Business Services of a suitably qualified Responsible Officer (RO). The RO reviews key financial policies, systems and procedures, including the use of tenders and presents reports on compliance to the Finance and Resources Committee. The Academy receives support throughout the year from its External Auditors on compliance and accounting practices.

Current works to extend the HNB and remodel the KS1 classrooms and toilets have been a long time in the planning stages. However, working closely with the L.A. SEND Team and Asset Management department, the architects prepared a specification for the works and agreed to fund a significant sum in order to improve SEND provision for Middlesbrough children. In turn, it will have a significant positive impact on the structure and organisation of the school, creating a route outside of classrooms in order to pass through KS1. The tenders sourced by the L.A. were then brought to the Headteacher and the Finance and Resources Committee and a contractor was appointed after further confirmation of their costings. The actual project totals £384,000, of which the school will contribute only 26% - £100k.

The Finance and Resources Committee receive termly monitoring reports. The Trustees approve the budget each year and is mindful of the need to balance expenditure against income to ensure the Academy remains a 'going concern'. The board also receive and approve the Annual Accounts and the External Auditors Management Report.

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

The Academy regularly benchmarks financial performance against other academies to demonstrate that the Academy provides good value for money.

Tender exercises are regularly undertaken to ensure that high value contracts are assessed against the marketplace on a regular basis to ensure that long term contracts (3 to 5 years) remain competitive. For purchases above £10,000, but below the tender limit, 3 quotes are required.

The schools work closely with the Discovery Alliance Trust, consisting of five primary and one secondary academy. Through this partnership best value has been realised in such areas as insurance, buildings management and the group are currently working on procuring energy. As a group better savings can be made than as a single entity.

4. Maximising income generation

The Academy explores every opportunity to generate income through hire of Academy facilities. Income is also generated from small grant applications which help to support the wider curriculum.

During the year the school bid for funding from the Big Lottery Award and successfully received the maximum amount of £10,000 towards a multi-sport court for the pupils and wider community. One member of staff is an SLE for the Middlesbrough School Teaching Alliance and can be requested to work on a short term consultancy basis for other schools, providing additional income for the school.

5. Reviewing controls and managing risks

The Headteacher, Business Manager and Finance Officer (Mouchel) review expenditure within each budget heading monthly, and annually adjustments are agreed based on the effectiveness of strategies introduced in previous years, curriculum offer and any new strategies identified in the Academy Improvement Plan. The Academy works with other schools collaboratively to ensure that procurement costs are kept to a minimum.

There is a commendable segregation of duties within the finance team. The school is fortunate, as a large primary school to have a team of four working in an administrative role, with two focussing on finance in particular. Stringent safeguards are in place to ensure that risk is minimised through fraud. Financial risks are considered at each termly Finance and Resources governors meeting. The Academy maximises its resources by its environmental policies. These include energy consumption, recycling and reducing waste and procurement.

Mrs KL Edmenson

Hemlington Hall Academy Accounting Office

Date: 10th December 2014

