

Value for Money Statement

Organisation name: John Paul II Multi-academy

Company number: 8706247

Year ended 31 August 2014

I accept that as accounting officer of John Paul II Multi-academy 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.

Value for Money Statement

Multi-Academy Name – John Paul II Multi-Academy

Academy Company Number: 08706247

Year ended 31 August 2014

I accept as Accounting Officer at John Paul II Multi-Academy, I am responsible and accountable for ensuring that the Multi-Academy 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 Multi-Academy's use of its resources has provided good value for money during the academic year. The John Paul II Multi-Academy Development Plan (ADP) is printed below and is the central document for use of monies received to further the aims and objectives of all four schools working collectively.

John Paul II Multi-Academy is the first Catholic Multi-Academy in the City of Birmingham to convert to academy status. It consists of four schools – one secondary and three primary schools. The three primary schools are feeder schools for the secondary and therefore have been working collaboratively, sharing resources in relation to teaching and learning prior to academy conversion on the 1st January 2014. A Multi-Academy Development Plan has been formulated by Directors and the Committee of Principals which strategically drives the Multi-Academy (ADP 1, 2, 3).

The Multi-Academy has a part-time Principal Finance Officer who attends the Audit and Finance and Board of Directors meetings. Working across the four schools they are responsible for overseeing the finances of the Multi-Academy. Contracts, Service Level Agreements and service costs are beginning to be procured centrally which will save each of the four schools both time and money. The Board of Directors is committed to reviewing by December 2015 how much money has been saved and opportunities gained from this central procurement (ADP 6). A system of internal financial control is in place including transparent spending controls, up-to date financial records and continuous financial monitoring which is reported on a regular basis to the Accounting Officer, Principals and Directors. All financial policies are centralised across the Multi-Academy.

Prior to conversion the ICT team at the secondary school has supported the primary schools. The Multi-Academy is now in the process of introducing a shared ICT provision across the four schools again this will save each of the schools both time and money and ensure that teaching and learning are not interrupted. A platform for ICT is a vital tool in Teaching and Learning (ADP 5).

Teaching resources are also shared across the Multi-Academy. Modern Foreign Languages is taught by secondary school staff at the primary schools. Children across the feeder primary schools have regularly visited the secondary school for different activities. This also helps with the smooth transition from primary to secondary school. The four schools have shared a joint inset day to share best practice and Multi-Academy wide training

events. This has led to small working groups where curriculum development ensures better pupil outcomes e.g. SEND, Computer Science and Religious Education (ADP 3).

Value for money is at the centre of all purchasing. For example, services and contracts are re-negotiated towards the end of their term to ensure they provide quality and effectiveness for the least cost. A tender process is carried out on all major contracts and capital bids to assess the costs and benefits to the Multi-Academy in the longer term.

Moving into 2015 the Board of Directors is working on ADP 4 – Shared Pay and Appraisal Policy. This is to standardise best practise across all the schools, using the Pay and Appraisal Policy to provide the very best teaching and learning (ADP 4).

Signed: John Farrell

Name: John Farrell
Multi-Academy Accounting Officer

Date: 18/12/14

St John Paul II Multi Academy Development Plan 2014/15 Progress Report Jan 2014 – Aug 2014

Key Priority - 1 Launch

- INSET Day
- Mass
- Website

Progress against key priority

All three actions are now complete. The joint INSET day and Mass both happened in the Summer term and were a great success. The Academy website is live and there are links from/ to the other schools' websites.

Key Priority - 2 Joint Project on Catholic Life

- Mission week
- Appreciation that we live in a diverse society.
- Prayer life of the MAC

Progress against key priority

The vision for the Multi Academy has been established and communicated to all stakeholders.

- A multi faith week is planned for Summer 2015.
- Staff INSET on prayer took place at Holy Cross in November 2014.
- Schools are contributing their academy prayers to be uploaded on to the Multi Academy website at the beginning of the Spring Term 2015.

Key Priority - 3 Improving Standards, achievement and the quality of teaching

- Develop and share best practice
- Ensure sustained improvement in standards
- Develop curriculum Groups have met across the Multi Academy as follows:

Progress against key priority

- SEND group: SEN and Inclusion leaders have created a joint policy and offer statement for the Multi Academy complete and implemented June 2014.
 - ICT/Computing: Key staff have met to plan staff development in programming.
 - RE and the Catholic Life: RE leaders have met to coordinate work on prayer INSET and plan a multi-faith week.
 - Principals have started a programme of peer review across the 4 schools with Holy Cross the first school in October 2014, followed by Bishop Walsh in November 2014
- INSET days have been set during 2014/15 to give staff a chance to visit other schools and observe practice. An INSET day is due to take place on developing the new curriculum in January 2015.

Key Priority - 4 Shared pay and appraisal policy

- The Committee of Principals have met to review options for a policy and will be consulting the Board in the Spring

Term 2015.

- The Committee of Principals are also reviewing other personnel procedures including a draft common staff attendance policy for the Board to consider in the Spring Term 2015

Key Priority - 5 ICT provision

- The ICT strategy group has met to work on developing the computing curriculum across the primary and secondary phases.
- An ICT support strategy for all schools in the Multi Academy has been approved by the Board.
- An audit and review has been completed in September 2014 to ensure that the Academy schools have the infrastructure to accommodate the use of tablets and mobile devices

Key Priority - 6 Harnessing Provision

- The coordination of ICT technician support across the academy has been completed to ensure that all schools are getting consistent support and at best value.
- All Contracts and service level agreements have been reviewed in July 2014.
- There has been an increase in collaboration and cooperation between schools regarding the use of support staff – eg. Key holding for events over the summer and cover for absent caretaker at St Nicholas in the Autumn Term 2015.

Name: Mr John Farrell

Academy Trust Accounting Officer

Date: 18 Dec 2014