

# Value for Money Statement

**Academy trust name: Abbots Hall Primary Academy**

**Academy trust company number: 8484553**

**Year ended 31 August 2014**




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I accept that as accounting officer of **Abbots Hall Primary 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.

## **Improving Educational Results:**

In order to ensure that educational standards will continue to improve and that all pupils have the opportunity to raise their individual levels of attainment, the Academy has ensured that resources are directed as per the Strategic Plan as follows:

1. **To improve progress and attainment in Key Stage 2 by continuing to concentrate on improving the quality of teaching, especially building by building on good teaching, to raise achievement by:** 
  - Providing sufficient learning time for all groups of pupils, which includes opportunities for independent work
  - Provide learning tasks which move pupils' learning forward quickly, so all groups make progress
  - Developing some teachers' subject knowledge and understanding of assessment so they are confident in using assessment information to alter planning during the lesson.
  - Identify pupils who need support and to intervene effectively including interventions for pupils with special educational needs and disability.
  - Providing relevant and challenging learning opportunities for more able pupils so they are able to achieve their potential.
  - Continuing to rigorously check the accuracy and quality of interim assessments through moderation so teachers are able to build confidently on what pupils know, understand and can do.
  - Consistently applying approaches to marking and the use of targets, providing time for pupils to regularly respond to teachers' directions and 'next step' comments.
2. **Further improving the good behavior and safety awareness of pupils by extending their involvement in assessing risk and supporting each other.** 
3. **Ensuring that roles and responsibilities are clear at all levels with accountabilities explicitly linked to each leadership role including that of the Early Years Leader.**
4. **Further embedding approaches to evaluation and planning so the middle leaders, senior leadership team and governors have continuity in practice so they know the school well and know what needs to happen to secure ongoing improvement.** 

5. **Governors need to further extend their knowledge of the school's appraisal systems and ensure that Pupil Premium money is having an impact on narrowing performance gaps especially for pupils in vulnerable circumstances.** [?]
6. **The school needs to check it is providing regular and planned opportunities for pupils to engage with and develop an appreciation of other cultures.** [?]

**Activities during this report period have also included:**

- The appointment of a substantive full-time Headteacher from June 2014.
- Improvement works to the 'learning footprint' of the school including moving classrooms, resource centres including the Library and the school's Conference Room.
- Adjustment of senior leadership responsibilities to include a focus on teaching and learning in Key Stage 1 and 2.
- The school has completed a review of its curriculum and implemented the Inspire Curriculum to ensure the teaching and learning adheres to new 2014 curriculum criteria.

**Financial Governance and Oversight:**

The Trust's system of financial governance is based on a system of regular management information and procedures put in place to ensure effective internal control and monitoring of the Academy's finances and resources. The Resources Committee is a sub-committee of Abbots Hall Primary Academy's main Governing Body and consists of appropriately trained trustees that monitor all areas of budget management, personnel, asset management and relevant Academy policies.

Budget reports and accounts that are presented at each meeting are rigorously scrutinised and challenged to ensure that best value is being achieved and that impact can be quantified at all times. Regular meetings are held between the Chair of the committee and the Academy Business Manager (herself a qualified accountant) with systems and accounting checks being carried out and reported back on.

**Better Purchasing:**

The Academy Business Manager ensures that all contracts and services are regularly appraised to ensure that they are fit for the purpose and still achieving value for money. This is aided by active procurement and can be seen in the following ways:

- Use of both a Property Services Consortium to ensure value for money in collective bargaining and expertise and a market leading Property Specialist empowered to carry out Health and Safety Compliance and Condition Audits.
- Obtaining detailed quotes and proposals for the installation of 2 outside learning areas. These were actively discussed, and finally agreed, at several Resource Committee meetings to ensure that the 'best fit' for the Academy was achieved at the correct price.

The Academy carries out benchmarking against other Schools and Academies where appropriate, ensuring that our spending is appropriate to our Academy and will continue to develop this area on an ongoing basis.

The Academy has a robust tendering system in place and it is fully documented in the Financial Regulations. Quotes are obtained as appropriate and are dealt with according to their materiality as laid out in the Regulations.



The Academy has worked closely with its neighbouring primaries within the Umbrella Trust, collaborating on the joint purchasing of Health and Safety Handsam package including joint training initiatives and sharing of knowledge and expertise.

#### **Better Income Generation:**

The Academy seeks to maximise its income generation wherever possible and actively lets out the facilities on a regular basis to a private Playgroup, a local Football Club, a local Church and several after school clubs. The Academy also runs a successful self-sufficient daily Breakfast Club. The academy is now in the process of setting up a self-sustaining After-School Club.

#### **Reviewing Controls and Managing Risks:**

The Trust has set up rigorous internal controls to maximise the use of its assets and minimise risk. Reports are presented on a regular basis and are reviewed to ensure that spending is within budget and variances are highlighted and discussed.

The level of Insurance cover is reviewed and risk reviews are carried out when appropriate. The Risk Register, Business Continuity Plan and Policy Register are reviewed and updated in a timely manner (at the very least on an annual basis).

#### **Lessons Learned and Future Objectives:**

Having worked on improving the work of our Umbrella Trust: The Inspiration Learning Trust, we recognise that the Academy needs to continue to build robust procedures that are rigorously followed to ensure that the maximum benefit can be obtained from this Trust to ensure value for money and improving outcomes for all.

Signed: .....

Name: .....LAURA FISHLEIGH

Academy Trust Accounting Officer

Date: .....19/12/14