



MARISH

ACADEMY TRUST



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Executive Headteacher: Mrs. H G Denham B.A., M.Ed.

Value for Money Statement

Organisation name: Marish Academy Trust

Company number: 8073873

Year ended 31 August 2014

I accept that as accounting officer of Marish Academy Trust 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.

1. Improving educational outcomes

The Trust had implemented a Target Tracker package in order to closely and regularly monitor children's performance. This has enabled early identification of pupils who may require individual assistance as well as pupils who would benefit from the gifted and talented programme. The Trust has seen a significant improvement this year in overall SATS results across KS1 and KS2 especially at Levels 3, 5 and 6, showing that the Trust achieved one of its key priorities for 2014 of improving outcomes for the more able following a dip in results in this area in 2013. Moreover, progress levels from KS1 to KS2 in both schools are the highest in 2014, than they have ever been. The academy ensures a continual focus on best value for money and clearly understands the value of our assets and how they can be used effectively to raise pupil attainment. In order to raise pupils' attendance the Trust has leased minibuses to ensure the optimum level of attendance. The increased level of attendance had a direct impact on pupils' attainment.

Like many successful Trusts, Marish collaborates with other organisations on an informal or formal partnership basis. These are mutually beneficial relationships, wherein services, facilities, skills or expertise and sometimes staff are shared, usually in return for reciprocal benefit rather than any financial reward. The Trust has greatly expanded the number of clubs (both before and after school) in our Children's University Programme. The children have a choice of 46 clubs ranging from ballet and football to ICT and Philosophy. Teaching staff voluntarily organise these clubs.

2. Financial governance and oversight and reviewing controls and managing risks

The Trust Strategic board considers the risks and their management via the annual review and of the Trust Risk register. It also approves, on an annual basis, the Financial Manual and the Scheme of Delegation, detailing the finance-related systems and procedures and other key financial policies. There is a clear segregation of duties in the Finance team.

School spend is benchmarked against other schools (both community and Academy schools) to ensure that the Trust provides good value for money.

Budget Monitoring reports are produced at regular intervals by the finance team. All budget holders are copied with a statement of the original budget allocation, actual spend to date and remaining budget. The



The Marish Academy Trust is a charitable company limited by guarantee registered in England and Wales (registered number 08073873).
Registered office: Marish Primary School, Swabey Road, Langley, SL3 8NZ.

“WORK TO BE OUTSTANDING. DESERVE TO BE OUTSTANDING. WILL BE OUTSTANDING!”

Strategic Board are updated on budget position at each monthly meeting and any significant variances against budget are addressed. Cash-flow position is checked on a monthly basis and is also presented to the strategic board for any comment.

3. Better purchasing

The Trust promotes fair competition through quotation and tender, in accordance with its Finance Procedures, to ensure that goods and services are secured in the most economic, efficient and effective way. For example the Trust had secured a build extension via the formal tender process. This has enabled the Trust to make considerable savings and ensure quality workmanship. The Strategic Board is responsible for the Trust financial priorities and was instrumental in identifying this project as a move forward for the Trust. Suppliers are required to compete on grounds of cost, quality/suitability of service/products. A review of suppliers was conducted in order to achieve economies of scale and reliable sources of quality resources to meet the Trust needs. Discounts were negotiated and achieved across several main suppliers.

Contracts are reviewed annually. For example the Trust has implemented a new telephone system with a new supplier which has resulted in substantial savings whilst enabling direct internal communication between schools in the Trust.

4. Maximizing income generation

The Trust has secured an additional funding via the ACMF programme, which has enabled us to commence the total school rewire project. The outcome of this project not only will improve health and safety measures at the Trust but will allow more reliable network connectivity.

The Trust has worked closely with the Local Authority to provide additional streams of income to improve security at one of the Trust schools and also improve suitability of grounds for PE provision.

Name: **Mrs Heather Gill Denham** Academy Trust Accounting Officer

Date: 10 Dec 2014