

Value for Money Statement

Tudor Grange Academy Worcester

Academy Trust company number: 06924496

Year ended 31 August 2013

I accept that as accounting officer of Tudor Grange Academy Worcester (the 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 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 use of its resources has provided good value for money during the academic year.

Supporting students to reach their potential

The principal activity of the Academy is to provide free education for pupils of different abilities between the ages of 11 and 19, and to provide public benefit by establishing, maintaining, carrying on, managing and developing a secondary school offering a broad and balanced curriculum.

The Academy is now in its fifth year of operation and most indicators reveal an upward trend in performance and a reversal of downward trends which prevented the predecessor school from coming out of special measures.

The performance of the school has also reversed the falling rolls situation which led to the predecessor school becoming seriously undersubscribed. The school is now oversubscribed for the intake for the third year running. The total number of students in the school as at the Autumn census 2013 was 887.

Examination results for 2013 were excellent on a number of measures and in a very challenging context. 99% of students achieved the equivalent of 5 GCSEs A* - C grade and 62% of students achieved 5 A* - C including English and Mathematics (2010 = 28%, 2011=38% 2012 = 48%),

To ensure that standards are continually raised the Academy, the Governing Body and the Leadership Group:

- operate a robust quality assurance calendar which monitors the quality of teaching and learning and includes book trawls
- undertake a rigorous review of attainment using RAISEONLINE and FFTlive to measure the progress of students, paying particular regard to their achievement on entry and levels of progress secured

The main objectives of the Academy during the year ended 31 August 2013 are summarised below:

- to ensure that every child enjoys the same high quality education in terms of resourcing, tuition and care;
- to raise the standard of educational achievement of all pupils;
- to improve the effectiveness of the Academy by keeping the curriculum and organisational structure under continual review;
- to provide value for money for the funds expended;
- to maintain close links with industry and commerce; and
- to conduct the Academy's business in accordance with the highest standards of integrity, probity and openness.

Robust governance and oversight of Academy finances:

The academy's Governors are committed to ensuring that governance of the Academy's financial management is robust. The Governors are cognisant of their responsibilities in ensuring that the Academy's resources are managed effectively, to support the objectives of the Academy, whilst considering the long term development of the Academy.

The Governors are responsible for setting general policy, adopting an annual plan and budget, monitoring the Academy by the use of budgets and making major decisions about the direction of the Academy, capital expenditure and senior staff appointments.

Policies and Procedures adopted for the Induction and Training of Directors and Local Governors

The Academy has a Governor Recruitment, Induction and Training policy available from the Clerk to the Governors.

The training and induction provided for new Governors will depend upon their existing experience but would always include a tour of the Academy and a chance to meet staff and pupils. All Governors are provided with copies of policies, procedures, minutes, accounts, budgets, plans and other documents that they will need to undertake their role as Governors. As there are normally only two or three new Governors a year, induction tends to be done informally and is tailored specifically to the individual. Advantage is taken of specific courses offered by the Local Authority and other bodies.

Ensuring that the Trust gains good value for money, and effective and efficient use of resources

The Academy takes a prudent approach to expenditure. A significant proportion of the Academy's budget is spent on staffing, the staffing structure is reviewed annually to ensure that it is fit for purpose and can adapt and respond to support the successful attainment of the objectives within the Academy.

The Academy regularly benchmarks financial performance against other academy trusts to demonstrate that the Academy provides value for money. Tender exercises are regularly undertaken to ensure that high value contracts are assessed against the marketplace on a regular basis to help ensure terms achieved are competitive.

Increasingly the Academy is working in strong collaboration with Tudor Grange Academies Trust to achieve efficient pricing in areas such as: insurance, this is purchased through an established academy buying group; IT infrastructure and telephony services which are now purchased through established supplier partners. All partners are on the academy's web-site www.worcs.tgacademy.org.uk.

Maximising income generation

The Academy has a Lettings policy in place and explores opportunities to generate income through the hire of the site. A proactive approach is taken towards preparing funding bids and generating revenue streams in order to maximise income generation.

Reviewing controls and managing risks

The Governing Body has reviewed the key risks to which the academy is exposed together with the operating, financial and compliance controls that have been implemented to mitigate those risks. The Governing Body is of the view that there is a formal ongoing process for identifying, evaluating and managing the academy's significant risks that has been in place for the year ending 31 August 2013 and up to the date of approval of the annual report and financial statements. This process is regularly reviewed by the Governing Body.

The principal risks and uncertainties facing the Academy are as follows:

Financial - the Academy has considerable reliance on continued Government funding through the EFA. There is no assurance that Government policy or practice will remain the same or that public funding will continue at the same levels or on the same terms.

Failures in governance and/or management - the risk in this area arises from potential failure to effectively manage the Academy's finances, internal controls, compliance with regulations and legislation, statutory returns, etc. The Governors continue to review and ensure that appropriate measures are in place to mitigate these risks.

Reputational - the continuing success of the Academy is dependent on continuing to attract applicants in sufficient numbers by maintaining the highest educational standards. To mitigate this risk Governors ensure that student success and achievement are closely monitored and reviewed.

Safeguarding and child protection - the Governors continue to ensure that the highest standards are maintained in the areas of selection and monitoring of staff, the operation of child protection policies and procedures, health & safety and discipline.

Staffing - the success of the Academy is reliant on the quality of its staff and so the Governors monitor and review policies and procedures to ensure continued development and training of staff as well as ensuring there is clear succession planning.

Fraud and mismanagement of funds - the Academy has appointed a Responsible Officer to carry out checks on financial systems and records as required by the Academy Financial Handbook. All finance staff receive training to keep them up to date with financial practice requirements and

develop their skills in this area.

The Academy has continued to strengthen its risk management process throughout the year by improving the process and ensuring staff awareness. A risk register is maintained and reviewed and updated on a regular basis.

The Academy's system of internal financial control is based on a framework of regular management information and administrative procedures including the segregation of duties and a system of delegation and accountability. In particular, it includes:

- comprehensive budgeting and monitoring systems with an annual budget and periodic financial reports which are reviewed and agreed by the Governing Body;
- regular reviews by the Governors of reports which indicate financial performance against the forecasts and of major purchase plans, capital works and expenditure programmes;
- setting targets to measure financial and other performance;
- clearly defined purchasing (as set purchase or capital investment) guidelines.
- delegation of authority and segregation of duties;
- identification and management of risks.

The Governing Body has considered the need for a specific internal audit function and has appointed an internal auditor, reflecting the Governors' objective to ensure the effectiveness of the academy's internal control framework is independently and expertly assessed. At present, the governors continuing appointee, a Governor, is Responsible Officer ('RO'). The RO's role includes giving advice on financial matters and performing a range of checks on the academy's financial systems. On a quarterly basis, the RO reports to the Governing Body on the operation of the systems of control and on the discharge of the Governing Body's financial responsibilities.

Lessons Learned

In future it might be appropriate to consider tendering for an increasing number of services and contracts whilst recognising the need to balance appropriately service continuity with economy. All decisions regarding purchasing and service provision will be taken with an emphasis on obtaining value for money and improving outcomes for pupils.

Signed: Claire Maclean

Name: CLAIRE MACLEAN
Academy Accounting Officer

Date: 16.12.13