

Value for Money Statement

Academy trust name: Jotmans Hall Primary School

Academy trust company number: .. 07687947...

Year ended 31 August 2013

I accept that as accounting officer of **Jotmans Hall Primary School** 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.

The Governing Body considers Best Value when making decisions:

We regularly challenge the functions of the Academy;

We monitor outcomes of our pupils and our financial performance;

We consult with our stakeholders before we make major decisions;

We ensure fair competition through quotes and tenders.

The Academy's main drive for 2012/13 was to continue to maintain the rapid progress shown by pupils across all age groups over the last few years culminating in high levels of achievement at the end of Key Stage 2. We targeted our resources very carefully to support this aim. To do this we put in place several initiatives:-

- We carefully monitored each child's progress and held termly progress meetings to track each individual pupil's progress.
- Support staff roles were carefully considered and strategies were put in place to target pupils whose progress was not as fast as we would like.
- Literacy training was offered to all Learning Support Assistants to ensure that they felt confident to support the full range of pupils. This has proved to be very worthwhile, increasing their confidence and understanding, with a particular focus on Grammar.
- Tailored Individual support for pupils was put in place including 1:1 Tuition and Writing Groups in KS2, focusing on pupils whose progress was causing concern or to give an individual child the opportunity to progress to the next level, as appropriate. To enable this to take place, two room dividing partitions were installed to form more group rooms.

- Poor attendance of individual pupils and groups of pupils was a focus for SLT and measures put in place to try to increase attendance, particularly for vulnerable pupils.

These measures were highly successful in terms of outcomes for pupils since by the end of Year 6 pupils made outstanding progress in Maths, Writing and English overall. Attainment in English, Reading, Writing and Maths was high,

Collaboration with partner schools continued to be a strength at Jotmans Hall Primary School:-

- The Governing Body's focus throughout the year was to achieve a grade of at least "Good" in the next OfSTED inspection. An inspection took place in June 2013 and the School was judged as "Good". One area focussed on during the year was improving the quality of Teaching and Learning to at least 80% judged as "good". Senior Leaders worked closely with the School Improvement Partners and other local partner schools to look at good practice. The Governing Body was delighted to have their judgements backed up by the OfSTED inspection team who made the judgement that teaching was .."Good and sometimes outstanding, teaching ensures pupils achieve well over time...
- The School's involvement in the Benfleet and Thundersley Interschool's Cluster Trust provided an excellent vehicle for providing excellent value, bespoke training for the partner organisations. This new initiative enabled excellent value for money to be attained for a wide range of training courses for Site Staff, Ancillary Staff and teaching staff. Training programmes were tailored to support local needs and best practice was shared at joint training events. These training events enabled the School to offer new opportunities to staff to extend their knowledge and confidence.
- The School worked closely with the partner Pre-School on our site and a successful bid for lottery funding enabled a joint training/ parents' room to be refurbished to provide extra opportunities for pupils who would eventually transfer to Jotmans Hall Primary School. Early Years practitioners from both establishments worked together to ensure that pupils transferring from the Nursery were familiar with the School environment

New initiatives to raise attendance levels were put in place by the SLT and careful monitoring of all groups took place at least half-termly. Although several initiatives were successful, including: organising taxis to collect vulnerable pupils, involving the Education Welfare Service to monitor lateness and focussed attendance meetings, this issue continued to give concern. Attendance rates during 2012/13 were below the National Average and this was raised as an action point in the 2013 Ofsted Inspection Report. The SLT have put together an Action Plan and will monitor initiatives to raise attendance by the end of 2013/14. In addition, the Headteacher has worked closely with local partner schools and the Parent Support Worker to improve parental support particularly in relation to family holidays taken during term-time.

Careful use of resources during 2012/13 has enabled the Governing Body to open an extra class in 2013/14. Various options were considered in detail by the Personnel Committee and the decision was taken to employ experienced teachers whose skills add to the existing staff. This decision was taken deliberately to ensure that the School's progress continues an upward trend aiming at an OfSTED judgement of Outstanding at the next inspection.

Governors continued to play an active role in the School, monitoring various aspects of the School's drive for improvement and ensuring that they had a sound knowledge and understanding of the data relating to pupils. The Finance Committee worked closely with the Finance Manager to re-write the Risk Register using a simpler system bringing in their knowledge from outside industries and ensuring that in-depth discussion of all risks affecting the School were considered from a fresh perspective.

The BATIC group of Schools enabled various groups of staff to meet regularly and share best practice, including the finance managers. This vehicle was used for appraising services including grounds maintenance contracts and carrying out Asset Management Plan surveys for members of the group.

Use of the premises by the local community continues to be a strength of the School, providing high quality daily childcare services for Jotmans Hall families and holiday activities open to the whole community. The premises are let to various groups in the evenings and during holiday closures and the Pre-School uses the premises daily to offer a wide range of opportunities to their pupils. The School House lease was renegotiated with the Pre-School and a good rental income attained which is used to provide extra facilities and encourages new entrants to transfer to the School from an area with a falling birth-rate. The quality of the childcare services provided at the School has been judged as excellent by the Pre-School Learning Alliance and provides a very important, low cost facility for parents.

All purchases over £500 were discussed by the Finance Committee and several quotes were obtained to ensure that accurate comparisons were made when spending decisions were taken. Tenders were sought for the major projects completed in 2012/13 including renovating an office in Tree Tot's Pre-School Premises and replacing some unsafe playground steps with more suitable steps and hand rails. In all cases the suitability of the chosen contractor was considered in various ways, not just the price.

Signed:

Name:

Academy Trust Accounting Officer

Date: