



CROSBY-ON-EDEN CE PRIMARY SCHOOL

Value for Money Statement, Year ending 31 August 2019

I accept that as accounting officer of Crosby on Eden C of E 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.

1. The Academy Trust has made savings to staff costs over the year. Our Deputy Headteacher resigned from her post and left the Academy Trust on 31st August 2018 and her post was filled with a Class Teacher on the Main Pay Scale. The Headteacher and School Business Manager and Teaching staff consumed her additional duties. Support staff continue to provide essential support to children with special educational needs. In addition to this, support staff implement a wider range of targeted interventions to an extended number of children and groups with a variety of needs, including the more able and 'middle' attainers. Ensuring that all children are equipped with the necessary skills to achieve their full potential continues to be the driving factor for school development and deployment of resources. We employed an Apprentice Teaching Assistant who was working towards a Level 2 Teaching Assistant apprenticeship and was deployed throughout the school, assisting in classes and providing interventions.
2. The role and scope of the provision delivered by our HLTA has been further developed to improve staffing costs. Our HLTA covers PPA cover for all full time teachers and the Headteacher now covers PPA for the two part-time teachers, allowing for significant savings on staff cover costs and eliminating the need to purchase supply cover.
3. Funding continues to be used creatively and more efficiently to engage a range of pertinent specialists to deliver: unique outdoor learning opportunities in the form of our innovative Forest Schools Programme; music tuition; extended specialist sports provision and extra-curricular activities. We offered an impressive range of extra-curricular activities in 2018-19 at a cost of only £1.50 per session.
4. We continue to evaluate resource provision on a regular basis to ensure materials are used efficiently and effectively and staff time is optimised, allowing teachers to teach to high standards whilst maintaining optimum value for money.
5. We continue to further develop our collaborative working with other small schools in our local cluster which has enabled us to share resources and develop economies of scale, particularly when it comes to staff training and Headteacher peer to peer advice and analysis through the Local Alliance of System Leaders (LASL).

6. Our School Business Manager has continued to provide school with significant savings across a range of costs including: school supplies, utilities, school trips etc. and tighter control of the school budget.
7. Monthly management accounts are prepared to ensure controls are reviewed and risks managed appropriately.
8. The Finance & Premises Sub-Committee plays a pivotal and proactive role in scrutinising and advising on school spending in all areas.
9. The delivery of the curriculum is considered in relation to budget and staff are required to take appropriate action to maximise resource efficiency by e.g. sourcing resources which provide value for money and sharing resources as appropriate.
10. Additional sources of revenue and funding are pursued with vigour where appropriate; the school gains some additional funding through training trainee teachers on placements through both the university and Schools' Direct programmes.

Best value use of donations received and grant funding was made in the following ways:

- School benefited from kind donations from our PTA which enabled all of our pupils to attend a Pantomime during the second half of the Autumn Term 18-19.
- With a surplus of insurance money not yet spent, School should now be able to make further budgetary savings in the academic year 2019-20 purchasing additional resources as and when required.

Crosby on Eden CofE Primary School continues to be in the best physical state possible; the fresh, vibrant environment reflects the vibrancy and vitality of the school community within it.

Julia Dagleish, Headteacher & Accounting Officer

December 2019