

# Value for Money Statement

**Academy name: Willow Green Academy**

**Delta Academies Trust - Company number: 07386086**

**Year ended 31 August 2019**

I accept that as Head of Academy of Willow Green Academy I am responsible and accountable to the Accounting Officer Mr Paul Tarn for ensuring that the academy trust delivers good value in the use of public resources. I 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.

## **Introduction**

Willow Green Academy converted to academy status with SPTA on the 1<sup>st</sup> August 2012. We became a complete primary school two years prior to this, when the former Ferrybridge Infants and Roundhill Junior School amalgamated. The original Ferrybridge Infant School building was extended and refurbished; grounds landscaped and developed and we became Willow Green Academy.

We are a popular school choice in our local area. We have an academy admissions number of 30 children per cohort, which is broadly an average size for a primary school. Our Nursery children attend part time and we offer 52 places in total.

## **Improving educational results:**

In the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS), results showed a continued trend of improvement with 75% of our pupils achieving the expected 'Good Level of Development' and 19% of children achieving 'Exceeding' (a further 6% on the previous year).

Year 1 phonics screening also showed consistent excellence with a running three year trend of well above the national standard 97%, 87% and 87%% achieving the required standard.

In the national tests our Year 2 (KS1) pupils achieved 72% at age related expectation in Reading and 17% at greater depth, 69% at age related expectation and 17% at greater depth in Writing and 79% at age related expectations and 10% at greater depth in Maths.

In Year 6 (KS2) the combined measure was well above the floor standard at 73%; in line with 2018 results and on the previous year. Expected Standard individual subject outcomes were: 80% Reading, 87% Writing and 83% Maths. Greater Depth Standard for individual subjects were: 30% Reading, 30% Writing and 37% Maths.

Outcomes for Disadvantaged Pupils were: 75% Reading, 88% Writing and 88% Maths at the Expected Standard. Greater Depth for Disadvantaged Pupils were: 50% Reading, 50% Writing and an increase from 0% (2018) to 25% GDS for Maths. Increasing this number of DV pupils at GDS was a target for 2018/2019 and will continue to remain a focus for the academy.

### **Targeted improvement:**

We continued to embed the Reading Strategy which was deployed the previous year in all areas, extra staff were deployed to the Early Years and KS1 at key points during the morning sessions. We ensured that all new staff members maintained the high standard already set. This was done via internal CPD and coaching as well as utilising the expertise across the Trust Academies and Core Team.

Inset and Twilight CPD, in collaboration with three other Delta Primary Academies, took place regularly allowing us to moderate our assessments as well as draw on the best practice from across the local area.

Year 6 pupils who are in receipt of the Pupil Premium or have been identified as requiring further, specialist support in Maths received interventions and boosters daily. Staff were redeployed from across the academy to provide the necessary interventions for our Year 6 children in Maths and Reading specifically. They were also used to target vulnerable children (groups) in the other year groups. A part time Intervention Teacher was employed for the Spring and Summer terms, focusing on Year 6 pupils.

### **Focus on individual pupils:**

The Leadership Team conduct weekly RAG (pupil progress) meetings with the class teachers in Year 2 and Year 6 to identify pupils who are not making sufficient progress and/or achieving expected standards of attainment. Years 1, 3, 4 and 5 take place every two weeks. The Early Years Foundation Stage carry out continual assessments and discuss pupil progress with the Leadership Team twice each half term. Continuation of a Primary Director of Learning with Early Years expertise has allowed us to continue the development of this area of the Academy; for both staff CPD as well as ensuring we continue to improve the value we add in this crucial stage of a child's educational journey. Information from these meetings feeds into personalised action plans which identify strategies tailored to address these individual pupil's needs.

### **Collaboration and economies of scale:**

Regular meetings with the Heads of other trust academies ensure best practice is shared and value for money assured. Joint CPD has enabled us to buy in high quality trainers which have impacted positively on teaching and learning outcomes across the academy.

A proportion of sports funding was used to co-ordinate local delivery of inter academy PE, sports tournaments and competitions and CPD has developed lesson planning from an experienced provider. To enhance this further, this year in collaboration with other local primary academies we will add to the CPD program to accelerate impact and broaden each child's exposure to different sports. PE specialists will work alongside our teachers to develop their skills and knowledge to enhance the quality of the teaching. In expanding the number of PE specialists we will be able to provide a wider range of sporting activities for the children to develop and experience.

The catering contract was put out to tender as a group with 3 other local primary academies, resulting in significant savings in management fees and ensuring continued quality and value for money.

### **Quantifying improvements:**

A key driver in improving the quality of teaching is a good system for monitoring teaching and learning across the school. Well-targeted professional development is ensuring that the quality of teaching continues to improve. Members of the Academy Advisory Body (AAB) are well-informed and very aware of the data regarding pupils' progress and attainment and the link to the quality of teaching. As a result, the school's own self-evaluation is accurate and the systems in place for tracking pupils' progress are comprehensive.

### **Financial governance and oversight:**

AAB termly meetings have robust oversight of financial governance. A financial update is a standing agenda item for discussion at each AAB meeting and management accounts, reviews of expenditure and future plans are presented to the Finance and Resources Committee at termly meetings. Finance and Resources Sub-Committee meetings closely examine the effectiveness of spending proposals and provide appropriate challenge.

Systems of financial control are maintained and developed to conform to requirements set out in the Academies Financial Handbook. The Delta Academies Trust Financial Regulations manual expands on this and provides detailed information on the accounting procedures and system manuals and this is adhered to by all staff involved with financial systems.

A register of interests is maintained in line with the Academies Financial Handbook. The register is open to public inspection to ensure that anyone involved in financial decision making is acting in the best interests of the pupils, academy and Trust.

**Better purchasing:**

Financial procedures have clear parameters which outline the way goods and services are selected, ensuring value for money.

**Fitness for purpose:**

Contracts are regularly appraised to ensure continued quality and value for money.

Annual contract reviews on grounds maintenance, staff absence insurance, swimming, waste disposal and collection and hygiene services continue to result in significant cost savings, whilst also ensuring improved service and value for money.

**Benchmarking:**

Comparisons on expenditure are regularly made with other Delta academies and the use of recommended suppliers is encouraged. Discussions on value for money and provision of services have also been held with other local schools outside the trust.

**Options appraisal:**

Quotes are obtained in compliance with the Delta Financial Regulations Handbook. Price comparisons are obtained. The SLT and AAB is consulted on any high value/impact changes and direct links to how expenditure will improve the educational and wider societal outcomes for pupils are demonstrated.

**Maximising income generation:**

Catering income including children/staff meals, breakfast club and mid-morning snacks is retained within school.

Lettings income has been generated from a weekly Aikido community group.

**Reviewing controls and managing risks:**

Monthly finance reports are produced by the academy and forwarded to Delta for review and comment. This includes a robust monthly variance analysis of actuals against budget with explanations of significant variances. Spending proposals are fully costed and presented to the Leadership Team, before presentation to the Finance and Resources Committee. This includes evaluating the impact within the current year as well as across the five-year budget projections, ensuring the long term viability of the budget.

The Delta Reserves Policy which was approved by the Trust's Board of Directors in December protects activities and makes sufficient provision for future cash flow requirements and capital procurement. The policy also provides the framework for

future strategic planning and decision making whilst helping to mitigate the impact of any risk upon the continuing operations of the academy.

**Lessons learned (reviewing operations to maximise resources):**

Continue to review contracts and SLAs on a rolling programme to maximise use of the academy budget and ensure value for money.

Recruitment of three experienced and permanent members of the teaching staff has taken place to strengthen teaching and learning throughout the Academy.

**Signed:** .....C Parkinson.....

**Name:** .....Chris Parkinson.....

**Academy Trust Head of Academy**

**Date:** .....17.09.19.....