

Value for Money Statement

Academy trust name: Whirley Primary School

Academy trust company number: 08603811

Year ended 31 August 2014

I accept that as accounting officer of **Whirley 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.

Whirley Primary School is committed to:

1) Raising pupil attainment.

Pupils in Whirley Primary School come from a variety of backgrounds and cohorts vary considerably. The intake is predominantly White British and a lower than average proportion of pupils is eligible for Free School Meals. The school is in the top 40% for its proportion of pupils supported at School Action Plus or with a Statement of Special Educational Needs.

Assessment on entry confirms the variability of cohorts with the intake overall being broadly average. Pupils make good progress and standards at the end of Reception, Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2 are in line with or exceed expectations. Full details of Achievements can be found on our website at www.whirley.cheshire.sch.uk

2) Robust governance and oversight of Academy Finances

The school uses the services of a suitably qualified Responsible Officer (RO) who reviews key financial policies, systems and procedures, in line with the school's Finance Manual. They present termly reports on compliance to the Finance and Premises Committee. Action is taken where necessary.

The Finance and Premises Committee receives termly budget monitoring reports from the School Bursar and Headteacher and takes decisions in line with the remit for the committee.

The Full Governing Body approves the budget each year and is mindful of the need to balance expenditure against income to ensure the school remains a 'going concern'. The Governing Body also receives and approves the Annual Accounts and the External Auditors' Management Report.

3) Ensuring the operation of the school demonstrates good value for money and efficient and effective use of resources

The school regularly benchmarks financial performance against other schools to demonstrate that the school finances are robust and prudent.

Tender exercises are undertaken to ensure that high value contracts are assessed in the marketplace to ensure that contracts are competitive. All purchases above £3000 require at least two quotations, purchases over £10,000 go to tender.

The staffing structure of the school is kept under regular review in order to ensure that staff are always effectively deployed for the efficient delivery of the curriculum. This includes the admin team, as efficient and effective administration in school is vital to the delivery of a quality learning environment.

4) Maximising income generation

The school is generating additional income from its before and after school provision and from the work of senior staff supporting other schools and in delivering training courses.

The School ensures that all surplus cash balances are in interest bearing accounts to maximise interest earning potential.

5) Collaboration with other educational providers

The Headteacher is a Local Leader of Education and two members of staff are Specialist Leaders of Education. This status leads to collaboration with other educational providers which is to their benefit and often to the benefit of pupils in Whirley Primary School.

6) Reviewing controls and managing risks

Monthly budget monitoring reports are produced and reviewed by the Bursar and Headteacher and any necessary remedial action taken to address any significant variances that may have an impact on the budget out-turn.

7) Reviewing operation to maximise use of resources

The school leaders and governors review expenditure within each budget heading annually and make adjustments based on the effectiveness of strategies introduced in previous academic years. They also identify funding for priorities identified in the School Development Plan in the coming year.

Signed: *J. Rowan*

Mr John Rowan

Academy Trust Accounting Officer

Date: *15/12/2014*