

Value for Money Statement

Organisation name: BISHOP CLEARY CATHOLIC MULTI ACADEMY COMPANY

Company number: 8578428

Year ended 31 August 2014

I accept that as accounting officer of BISHOP CLEARY CATHOLIC MULTI ACADEMY COMPANY 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.

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Improving educational results:

Ø Reviewed and implemented a much improved governance structure at company and academy levels which put accountability for pupil achievement and progress at its core. In accordance with a common format, report to the Board's Quality and Performance Committee on a termly / half termly basis, as appropriate. Regular monitoring and challenge on progress, targets and outcome for learners.

Ø Established a system so that the staffing structures of the five academies could be shared, compared, aligned and enhanced as required. Created shared posts to maximize benefits for the company

Ø Set clear lines of accountability for pupils with special educational needs and those who are gifted or talented in any field of endeavour

Ø Worked, post-16, with other members of Compton Park Learning Partnership, with the Diocesan Education Service and with other emerging – primary and secondary - academies, academy trusts and academy companies in the area and to streamline internal systems and processes to effect best value

Ø The Academies meets the needs of their diverse community of learners with specific and individual learning, bespoke pathways and developmental achievement benchmarks for every child.

Ø All learners have full access to an age-appropriate curriculum, which is enhanced by additional specialist strategies and interventions that focus on the specific needs for individuals

Ø Strong emphasis placed on the attainment of independence skills, and pupils are encouraged to develop abilities which will stand them in good stead throughout their lives within their chosen communities.

Financial governance and oversight:

- Ø Established strong Audit & Risk and Finance & Resources Committees, accountable to the Full Board formally three times a year
- Ø Created a strong formal governance guidance document highlighting key responsibilities for Directors and Academy Representatives and a common format for understanding terms of references for each committee and sub committees
- Ø Regular review and creation of finance policies, including although not an exhaustive list, Director's allowance policy, Financial Regulations policy, fixed assets policy, whistle-blowing policy and tendering policy etc.
- Ø People and Organisation Committee and Finance and Resources Committees regularly receive budget monitoring reports, scrutinise, consider HR and personnel issues and ensures the company complies with agreed policies and procedures
- Ø Created common format for all contracts and formal personnel procedures for the company
- Ø Achieved outstanding in procedures and practices via external audit report for the company
- Ø Directors and Academy Representatives and appropriate senior staff sign and complete the Company's Register of Business Interests annually.
- Ø Created a Multi Academy Company vision and ethos statement, whilst maintaining individual academy identity and promoting company collaboration and working
- Better purchasing:
 - Ø Regular process of appraising the quality of services and contracts engaged by individual academies and by Bishop Cleary Catholic MAC
 - Ø Regular benchmark costs against other, similar, multi academy trusts and companies
 - Ø Purchased Services as a company and negotiated reduced prices.
 - Ø Appointing joint posts to work across the company, ie Clerk, Personnel Administrator and MAC Business Director to take opportunity of shared and reduced costs for individual Academies
 - Ø Developed IT Support systems to support the five Bishop Cleary Catholic academies
- Better income generation:
 - Ø Committed to the exploration and generation of additional reliable revenue streams
 - Ø Using opportunities in understanding and making appropriate applications to sources of funding through the Business Director ie Capital Bids
 - Ø Letting Policy in place to generate additional funds for designated academy
- Reviewing controls and managing risks:
 - Ø Ensured that the Board and its relevant committees received monthly budget reports from each academy
 - Ø Enabled each academy to manage internally and collaboratively its budget commitments
 - Ø Regular review Risk Management Plan and Risk Register and introduction of a Risk Management Policy
 - Ø Regular review and update of Insurance policies
 - Ø Commenced Equality Audit to ensure compliance on job roles across the company, aligning jobs where necessary
 - Ø Created absence monitoring and policy across the company to ensure key concerns are addressed promptly with the use of appropriate HR policies and practices
 - Ø Teachers' performance management and support staff appraisal systems are in place to ensure staff are working to clear objectives and targets

Lessons learned:

- Established systems, strategies, posts and processes to secure value for money educationally and following best business practice
- Ø Managed transition from local authority systems and processes to Bishop Cleary Catholic MAC ones
- Ø Committed to even sharper and more strategic systemic improvement on an ongoing basis.

Signed: Margaret Hughes Name: Mrs Margaret Hughes
 Bishop Cleary Catholic Multi Academy Company Accounting Officer
 Date: 31 December 2013

Name: Mrs Margaret Hughes
Academy Trust Accounting Officer

Date: 22 Dec 2014