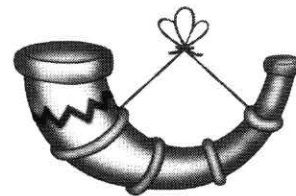


Value for Money Statement

Academy Trust Name: Belle Vue Girls' School
Academy Trust Company Number: 07968130



"Educating the Women of Tomorrow"

Year ended 31 August 2013

DFE Number: 3804041

I accept that as Accounting Officer of Belle Vue Girls' 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.

Improving educational results for our students remains our key priority. Belle Vue Girls' School has taken the following steps to support school improvement for our students and to raise their attainment and aspirations. Belle Vue Girls' School is committed to supporting our students achieving their full potential through academic achievement, extra-curricular opportunities and extended learning to develop the whole person to help prepare them for higher education, further training or work.

Targeted improvement:

Belle Vue Girls' School has a robust tracking system for monitoring achievement and is continually looking at how data can inform staff in order for them to support and extend the learning of the students. We have employed skilled staff to support our school improvement agenda and we involve all our teams in focusing on the students learning needs and encourage innovation and creativity to meet those needs.

Focus on individual students:

Belle Vue Girls School offers students a comprehensive student support service

Belle Vue Girls' School rewards excellence and encourages positive behaviour. We celebrate achievement and encourage students to try new activities to develop their confidence and leadership skills.

Diverse Curriculum:

We recognise that students' skills and knowledge are diverse, and it is necessary to differentiate the curriculum in order to make the most appropriate use of resources to meet students' needs.

Collaboration:

Belle Vue Girls' School does work closely with the feeder primary schools to ensure a smooth transition phase for the new pupils and also hold Open Evenings to give the opportunity to parents to see the school and ask any questions. Belle Vue Girls' School is part of the Secondary Business Managers who meet every term to discuss latest policies and good practice. The Bradford Partnership, Northern Lights Teaching School & Confederation are also other collaborations that have formed to look at academic and good practice across the schools who are members.

Quantifying improvements:

The Governors sub committees and full governors meet 6 times per year. The members at least 2 times per year and in addition an Annual general Meeting is held in the autumn term. The school improvement plan, including targets is challenged and agreed. The Self Evaluation Report is developed and approved by governors and members. The academy is fully subscribed and continues to be popular within the district. Key performance indicators continue to show an overall improving trend.

Financial governance and oversight:

Belle Vue Girls' School's Governing Body has strong oversight of the financial management of the budget. The Finance Committee meet every half term to review the financial position, to receive reports and to challenge decisions. Our external auditors review our financial processes and the Governing Body undertake the role of Responsible Officer to test our internal controls. The levels of delegation on spending proposals ensure we take the necessary steps to achieve best value.

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

Better purchasing:

Belle Vue Girls' School is a member of a group purchasing consortium which facilitates group purchases for a number of schools to achieve best value. Our Budget Holders are continuously looking for the most competitive deals using various procurement tools such as internet shopping, advice from other schools and economies of scale.

The Academy regularly benchmarks financial performance against other academy trusts to demonstrate that the Trust provides good value for money.

Fitness for purpose:

Belle Vue Girls' School has a cycle of review for its on-going services from external organisations to ensure those services continue to meet the needs of the school, are the best available to us at that time, and offer good value for money.

Tender exercises are regularly undertaken to ensure that high value contracts are assessed against the marketplace on a regular basis to ensure that long term contracts (3 to 5 years) remain competitive.

Better income generation:

The Academy has been successful with a number of external income streams including The Wolfson funding for the conversion of a science classroom into an outdoor learning classroom. The Academy explores every opportunity to generate income through hire of Academy facilities and through several successful sportivate bids.

Reviewing Controls and Managing Risk:

Monthly budget monitoring reports are produced by the Head of Finance & Facilities and reviewed in the first instance by the Headteacher. These reports every half term are shown to the Finance Governance & Premises Committee who have the opportunity to question and challenge the reports. All significant impacts are always highlighted and noted in the minutes of the meeting.

Belle Vue Girls' School has a Risk Management Policy and the Risk Register is reviewed at every Finance Governance & Premises Committee meeting and any remedial action taken to address any significant variances that may have an impact on the budget out-turn.

Belle Vue Girls' School ensures that all surplus cash balances are invested in interest bearing accounts but also considering the liquidity of the investment.

Reviewing operation to maximise use of resources:

Belle Vue Girls' School Senior Leadership Team review expenditure and make adjustments based on the effectiveness of strategies introduced in previous years, curriculum offer, and any new strategies identified in the Belle Vue Girls' School Improvement Plan.

Lessons learned:

Belle Vue Girls' School has reached the end of its first full year of operation and we have come to learn the options open to us and the autonomy and flexibilities we have. Our continued curriculum development to support high student achievement remains our top priority. We will be focusing on how best to resource our Improvement Plan.

Signed: M. Copeland

Name: Mary Copeland

Academy Trust Accounting Officer

Date: 19-12-13