

Value for Money Statement

Academy trust name: Southwark Primary Academy Trust

Academy trust company number: 7726568

Year ended 31 August 2014

I accept that as accounting officer of Southwark Primary Academy Trust 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.

The school has a significant number of pupils who experience disadvantage in social or economic terms. The school's results show that we are very successful in meeting their needs. The Senior Leadership Team promotes value for money in all aspects of procurement and looks at time management within all areas of the school to ensure efficiency, effectiveness and economy by -

- annual review of the School Development Plan
- ensuring that class sizes are reduced as far as is possible
- provision of 4th teacher within each year group
- provision of teacher with specialism to teach specific subjects
- ensuring that classes are always taught by qualified teachers;
- ensuring a wide variety of supportive interventions are available to help pupils who require additional support academically, socially or emotionally;
- ensuring that the large number of pupils, and their families, who join the school during the course of an academic year, receive a good welcome and a successful induction;
- supporting the early identification and intervention for pupils and their families who are in difficulties by ensuring that the Special Needs and Inclusion Leader and the Senior Assistant Head responsible for Vulnerable Children are available and not class-committed;
- providing money to support school trips etc that are linked to the curriculum
- implementing a more efficient finance system allowing staff to monitor their own budgets
- ensuring value for money principles have become central to the whole school organisation with savings being reinvested in agreed plans
- hold staff training sessions on all aspects of financial administration
- liaison with the family of schools to consider joint procurement

- prepare an annual finance policy covering all aspects financial policies and whistleblowing
- annual review of NCC sold services to ensure best value
- regular Responsible Officer visits to check internal financial procedures
- annual external audit
- considering income generation by developing leadership courses e.g. NTU and NCTL
- ensuring benchmarking with schools of similar size and catchment area
- review of caterings services to ensure pricing, quality and portion size are acceptable
- online payments for catering and trip monies, with a view to it being rolled out for all income due to be received for After School Club.
- issue of electronic receipts for all money collected
- bank accounts transferred to Lloyds to allow access to free banking
- lead EIP Business Managers Group to ensure best practice within local schools
- Continuing professional development allowing for staff to access local and national training, partnerships, and research projects
- analysing performance through annual parental questionnaires and

Overall school improvement is driven by the School Development Plan which indicates objectives together with cost implications. This takes into account resource costs, additional costs for staff time, supply cover, plus external services costs to ensure value for money, increased attainment and sustainability.

Signed: *M. Saunders*

Name: *MICHAELA SAUNDERS*

Academy Trust Accounting Officer

Date: *31-8-14*