



Norbreck Primary Academy

Company No. 8151859

Value for Money Statement

October 2014

Introduction

Norbreck Primary Academy is committed and accountable to ensure that the academy's resources are used in the most efficient and effective manner to meet the objectives and priorities identified in our Academy Improvement Plan. This will lead to continuous improvement in the academy's performance and secure the best possible outcomes for pupils at Norbreck Primary Academy.

What Is Best Value?

We will apply the four principles of **best value**:

- **Challenge** – to regularly review the functions of the academy, challenging how and why services are provided and setting targets and performance indicators for improvement.
- **Compare** - comparing the academy's pupil performance and financial performance with other schools.
- **Consult** – consulting the views of parents and pupils about the services the academy provides.
- **Compete** – ensuring that goods and services are purchased in the most economic, efficient and effective manner, to meet the needs of our academy.

Our Academy's Approach

The Governors and academy managers will apply the principles of *best value* when making decisions about:

- the allocation of resources to best promote the aims and values of the academy.
- the targeting of resources to best improve standards and the quality of provision.
- the use of resources to best support the various educational needs of all pupils.

Governors, and the academy managers, will:

- make comparisons with other/similar schools using data provided by the Local Authority and the Government, e.g. financial benchmarking, RAISE, quality of teaching & learning, levels of expenditure
- challenge proposals, examining them for effectiveness, efficiency, and cost, e.g. setting of annual pupil achievement targets and performance management of all staff
- require suppliers to compete on grounds of cost, and quality/ suitability of services/ products/ backup
- consult parents and pupils on quality/ suitability of the service we provide i.e. annual parental/ pupil questionnaires, pupil reports, regular pupil council meetings, assigned Local Authority school improvement and Ofsted.

This will apply in particular to staffing, use of premises, use of resources, quality of teaching and learning, purchasing, pupils' welfare and health and safety.

Governors and academy managers will not waste time and resources on investigating areas where few improvements could be made, minor cost savings achieved or tenders sought for minor supplies and services. The pursuit of minor improvements or savings is not cost effective if the administration involves substantial time or costs and this can also distract management from more important or valuable areas.

Staffing

Governors and academy managers will deploy staff to provide best value in terms of quality of teaching, quality of learning, adult-pupil ratio, and curriculum management.

Use of Premises

Governors and academy managers will consider the allocation and use of teaching areas, support areas and communal areas, to provide the best environment for teaching & learning and for the welfare of staff, pupils and visitors. This year we have developed more intervention/ pupil support areas to assist children's learning.

We also generate income through the hire of academy facilities to the benefit of the children and local community.

Use of Resources

Governors and academy managers will deploy equipment, materials and services to provide pupils and staff with resources, which support the highest quality of teaching and learning.

Teaching

Governors and academy managers will review the quality of curriculum provision and quality of teaching, to provide parents and pupils with:

- an enriched and creative curriculum which meets the requirements of the National Curriculum, EYFS and the needs of pupils.
- teaching which builds on previous learning and has the highest expectations of all children's individual achievements.

Learning

Governors and academy managers will review the quality of children's learning, by cohort, class and group, to provide teaching which enables children to achieve nationally expected progress, e.g. setting of annual pupil achievement targets, 2 national curriculum levels between Years 3 and 6,

Purchasing

Governors and academy managers will assess need, and obtain goods and services which provide "best value" in terms of suitability, efficiency, time, and cost. Measures already in place include:

- competitive tendering procedures (e.g. for goods and services above £1,000)
- procedures for accepting "best value" quotes, which are not necessarily the cheapest (e.g. suitability for purpose, quality of workmanship and delivery)
- procedures which minimise office time by the purchase of goods or services under £1000 direct from known, reliable suppliers (e.g. stationery, small equipment)

We have saved considerably by reviewing several contracts including: swimming, catering, finance, property, personnel, and energy provision. This has resulted in significant savings to the academy whilst achieving greater efficiency.

Pupils' Welfare

Governors and academy managers will review the quality of the school environment and the school ethos, in order to provide a happy and supportive environment conducive to learning and recreation.

We have continually maintained our environment with regular decoration, replacement of furniture and continued increase of provisions for children, including significant ICT investment.

Health & Safety

Governors and academy managers will review the quality of the school environment and equipment in order to provide a safe working environment for pupils, staff and visitors.

Benchmarking

An annual exercise is now undertaken with four other Blackpool academies to ensure best value by benchmarking income and expenditure.

Collaboration

The trust has undertaken to work collaboratively with four other Blackpool academies to reduce personnel contract costs by sharing administrative tasks.

Monitoring

These areas will be monitored for best value by:

1. In-house monitoring by the Headteacher and curriculum managers, e.g. classroom practice, work sampling
2. Termly target setting/ review meetings between the Headteacher and curriculum managers
3. Annual Performance Management
4. Annual Budget Planning, with regular reporting
5. Visits by the LA school improvement team
6. Analysis of school pupil performance data, e.g. SATs results, EYFS, results against all schools, LA schools, similar schools
7. Analysis of DFE pupil performance data, e.g. RAISE
8. Ofsted Inspection reports
9. Governors' full termly meetings
10. Governors' termly committee meetings
11. Governors' annual audit
12. Governors' annual development plan meeting/ review of governance

In the next three years the Governing Body will:

- set annual targets for improving pupil achievement.
- review the Academy Improvement Plan on an annual basis.
- discuss and review their “Value for Money” statement at each Autumn Term meeting of the Finance and Audit Committee.
- always consider best value.
- obtain advice from our retained architect regarding any large scale refurbishment of the premises.

Signed: _____

Name: _____

Academy Trust Accounting Officer

Date: _____