

Value for Money Statement

Academy name: The Parks Academy

Delta Academies Trust - Company number: 07386086

Year ended 31 August 2023

I accept that as Head of Academy of The Parks Academy I am responsible and accountable to the Accounting Officer Mr Paul Tarn for ensuring that the academy trust delivers good value in the use of public resources. I 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 use of its resources has provided good value for money during the academic year.

Introduction

The Parks Academy is a sponsored academy within Delta Academies Trust. It serves an area of social and economic disadvantage in Hull and, on conversion to academy status, was subject to special measures (Ofsted 2012). In November 2016, the academy was inspected again and gained the judgment of Good in all areas. In June 2022, the academy was inspected again and maintained its Good with a recommendation for reinspection under Section 5 due to potentially becoming Outstanding.

Improving educational results:

- In 2023 EYFS outcomes show progress to be rapid and sustained. From a baseline of 0% working at age related expectation, we achieved 69% achieving a good level of development.
- Phonics outcomes continue to improve and Y1 – and are now well above national average, at 87%
- Results in KS1 show significant gains from the EYFS with all of the %s being above national standard.
- In KS2 results are above national standard and have showed sustained progress and attainment year on year.

In 2023-2024 the academy will continue to accelerate progress for all pupils in all subjects, from very low baselines to at or above national

Targeted improvement:

A significant investment in high quality CPD for all adults working with children resulted in a significant improvement in the quality of teaching and learning and impact of interventions.

As a result of the effective spend of Pupil Premium funding, progress at KS2 matched or bettered national other for disadvantaged pupils.

Focus on individual pupils:

At The Parks Academy safeguarding is highly effective. Investment in training and support has ensured pupils are effectively safeguarded. Where pupils have been at risk, child protection procedures have been effectively implemented in a timely manner. Additional resource allocation has ensured that the pastoral care remains highly effective. 2023-2024 there were 60 open multi-agency cases.

Additional support was provided through the development of partnership working with Whitehouse PRU, providing targeted support for children with social, emotional and mental health needs.

Better purchasing and Economies of scale:

Financial procedures have clear parameters which outline the way goods and services are selected, to obtain value for money. The employment of some, carefully selected services across Hull, such as the Speech and Language therapist, Educational Psychologist & Dyslexia Screenings ensured bespoke support for the academy and negated the need to purchase more general, universal services from a less cost-effective sources.

Quotes were sought from three companies to ensure the academy received the best possible service for staff insurance.

Wherever possible, the Trust orders resources which results in The Parks benefitting from economy of scale. An example of this is how the academy benefitted from the bulk ordering of exercise books by the Trust. This will continue into 202-2024.

Fitness for purpose:

Contracts are always reviewed before the end of their term to ensure continued quality and VFM.

Benchmarking:

Comparisons with other academies are continually discussed and there is the opportunity to compare spending with other Delta academies

Reviewing controls and managing risks:

Monthly monitoring is undertaken and forwarded to Delta's Finance Team. Spending proposals are fully costed and presented to the Leadership Team, before potential approval by AAB. This includes evaluating the impact within the current year as well as across the five-year budget projections. This practice ensures the long-term viability of the budget. An appropriate level of insurance has been purchased through Delta, in order to minimise risk.

Lessons learned:

The Trust is always searching for best value in terms of academy spending and approaching various companies for discounted rates, when individual academies purchase goods or services.

Signed: 

Name: Michael McGrath

Academy Trust Head of Academy

Date: 11/10/2023