

Value for Money Statement

Organisation name: McAuley Catholic High School

Company number: 8936511

Year ended 31 August 2014

I accept that as accounting officer of McAuley Catholic High 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.

The school's priorities in terms of raising attainment and achievement resulted in the following attainment outcomes.

Key Stage 3 Attainment data.:

68.3% of our Year 9 students who were entered for GCSE or equivalent exams achieved at least 1 A* - C.

Key Stage 4:

Mathematics continues to achieve above the national average, 84% of cohort achieving A* - C compared to a national figure of 62.4%.

Performance in English dipped this year but still remains well above the national figure at 68.4% compared to 61.7%.

95% of our students achieved 5+ A* - C which was above the 2013 national figure of 86.5%.

Key Stage 5:

The number of students achieving A* / A grades continues to rise and is 6% above the national figure.

At A2, 11 subject departments performed in the top 25% nationally, six of which are in the top 10%. The strength of performance overall placed ensured the school received a three year ALPS T score of 3. This puts the school in the top 25% nationally.

Curriculum & Resources:

The School staffing structure is kept under review by the Headteacher, Senior Leadership Team and Governors. A Personnel Committee comprising a number of Governors approves all proposed key appointments prior to them being advertised. In 2013-14 the number of teaching staff in Mathematics & English was increased in order to further reduce class sizes.

The school has developed its own internal target setting process and the tracking of student progress is continuously reviewed.

A new behaviour for learning, house system and rewards process has been introduced and this is having a very positive impact in the school

Financial Governance and Oversight:

The Governing Body approve the annual budget of the Academy Trust following scrutiny of planned income and expenditure for the coming financial year by the Finance & Premises Committee.

The Finance & Premises Committee meets at least once per term and receives and reviews budget monitoring

reports, reviews the Academies current risk exposure and approves expenditure on large items or contracts above a value of £25,000. Such expenditure is considered in light of the School's current development priorities.

The Headteacher and Director of Finance & Facilities review budget monitoring reports, considering expenditure against each cost centre and address any significant variances against budget. A more formal budget monitoring review forms part of the Senior Leadership Review cycle on a quarterly basis.

The School has appointed a Responsible Officer from accountancy firm, Clive Owen & Co LLP, who undertake a programme of internal assurance work checking finance and accounting system checks and report findings to the Governing Body on a regular basis.

Purchasing:

The School has moved some services in house where better value for money can be achieved. For instance, the School introduced the role of Cover Supervisor to provide lesson cover for short-term staff absence and reduce the reliance on external supply teaching agency staff which is more costly.

A number of improvements have been made to the educational facilities in the School including the provision of a new library and the refurbishment of two Food Technology classrooms. These projects were undertaken following a tendering process to ensure that value for money was obtained.

For all premises projects, the school undertakes a full options appraisal to determine the best value course of action before undertaking any work. On this basis, the School has been successful in obtaining capital funding to replace windows across the school site in 2014-15 which will have a significant impact on our energy efficiency.

As contracts fall due they are reviewed and either re-negotiated, replaced or ended depending on alignment with School priorities and best value for money. During 2013-14, the School has been able to rationalise some contracts around IT software provision for example, to ensure reduction in duplication across the School.

Name: Mrs Catherine Brown
Academy Trust Accounting Officer

Date: 18 Dec 2014