

Value for Money Statement

Cavendish School

Company number: 8135372

Year ended 31st August 2014

I accept that as accounting officer of Cavendish School (Eastbourne) 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 outcomes

The Cavendish School aims to be an outstanding school and for the academic year 2013/2014 the Governors and the Leadership team identified the main priorities as improving pupil progress, achievement, attendance and behaviour and delivering outstanding teaching.

In terms of performance, our students achieved 63% 5A*-C including English and Maths. There were also many outstanding performances for individual students.

We are particularly proud that our students with special educational needs have exceeded their target for achieving 5A*-C including English and Maths.

As well as academic achievements, we are very pleased that our high standards of behaviour have been maintained and in some areas like attendance they continue to improve, attendance over all was 95% which compares very favourably with the national average attendance for secondary schools of 95%.

Headlines

Performance Measure	Estimates	Result
5 A* - C EM	64%	63%
3L+ Prog Eng	72%	71%
3L+ Prog Maths	66%	63%
4L+ Prog Eng	33%	19.5%
4L+ Prog Maths	27%	31%

2014 Key Vulnerable Groups Performance in 5A*-C English& Maths

1. Performance of our Y11 Pupil Premium Students

2014 Pupil Premium Students (40 students)	
Estimate	Result
51%	40%

N.B. Our comprehensive annual report on how we spent our Pupil Premium funding is available on the Cavendish School Website <http://www.cavendishschool.net/wp-content/uploads/2014/09/Pupil-Premium-2013-14.pdf>

2. Special Educational Needs & Disabilities (SEND) - School Action

2014 SEND (22 students)	
Estimate	Result
24%	27%

We are particularly proud that our SEND School Action students have achieved above target and therefore closing the gap for a group who nationally underachieve compared to non-SEND students.

Maximising income generation

The Academy continues to review every opportunity to generate income through the hire of the conference suite and other Academy facilities.

The Academy received a contribution from the Cavendish Charitable Trust towards its Rewards scheme, whilst the marketing team continues to promote fund raising activities.

Reviewing controls and managing risks through robust governance and oversight of Academy Trust finances

Monthly budget monitoring is undertaken with reports reviewed by the Finance Manager and Headteacher and all significant variances investigated. Monthly monitoring reports together with a full balance sheet and commentary are distributed to the Governors.

The Operations committee meets six times during the year and receives a full set of budget monitoring reports together with cashflow statement, Balance sheet and forecast for the year compared to original budget. The committee is aware of the need to balance income and expenditure and ensure that the Academy remains as a going concern.

The Cavendish School benefits from a suitably qualified Responsible Officer (RO). The role is carried out via peer review by a Business Manager from a local school. The RO reviews key financial policies, systems and procedures, including the use of tenders, and issues reports to the Governors Operational Resources Committee.

The risk register is updated annually, and regularly monitored by the Governing Body and the Leadership Team. Priority risks are identified and incorporated into the School Development Plan for action.

The Academy has comprehensive insurance covering all of the major risks relating to buildings, public liability and employers liability.

The Academy currently has five investment accounts in which to invest surplus funds. The Academy is careful to ensure that no account balance goes over the sum protected by the Financial Services Compensation Scheme.

Ensuring the operation of the Trust demonstrates good value for money and efficient and effective use of resources

All contracts and services are evaluated regularly, by way of contract review meetings, to ensure that they are meeting specification and are fit for purpose. Contract review dates are noted to ensure that no contract 'rolls over' and that they are being re-tendered on a regular basis. The Governors have adopted a Financial Scheme of Delegation, which details the financial responsibilities of Governors, Leadership and Budget Holders. This feeds into the Financial Regulations and Procedures, which applies to all staff.

All purchases over £1000 require a written quotation, and are authorised by the Director of Operational Resources. Purchases over £5000 require three written quotations, and are authorised by the Headteacher. Purchases and contracts above this level require Governing Body authorisation. Tender exercises are undertaken to ensure that long term contracts are competitive.

The Eastbourne cluster of secondary schools regularly benchmark staffing levels and costs against each other. They also work together on contracts and purchasing to explore ways that economies of scale can be applied to maximise the value for money, as well as sharing best practice. The schools also work collaboratively for professional development of staff.

Good Practice Identified

The Academy ran a Summer School for 11 days in the summer holidays. This was attended by approximately 23 year 6 students focusing on Arts, sports and helping to smooth the transition from Primary to Secondary School.

Our marketing team have organised and generated many fundraising and sponsorship opportunities, to support both in school events and charities. These include the Achievement Coffee Mornings, the Year 10 & 11 New York Trip, the Houses of Parliament trip with Stephen Lloyd, Fundraising for St Wilfrid's Hospice and Eastbourne Food bank and the annual Celebration of Achievement.

The Academy offers a wide range of extra-curricular activities and after school revision classes.

The Academy collaborates with other Secondary schools in the area to ensure that good practice is followed and best value is obtained for joint purchasing. The group recently secured a renewal of the grounds maintenance contract benefitting from the economies afforded to a larger group.

Areas for Development

The Cavendish school has been heavily impacted upon by the opening of a Free School less than a mile away.

Our Year 7 intake continue to be heavily affected with intake numbers down by 60 pupils per year.

We have taken this as an opportunity to evaluate our current provision and reorganise the school.

We are currently consulting on opening an all through 2-19 School and await planning and EFA approval.

Signed _____

K Fitzpatrick

The Cavendish School Academy Trust Accounting Officer

12th December 2014

Date