

Value for Money statement

Academy Trust Name: Evolution Academy Trust

Academy trust Company number 08158619

Year ended 31 August 2014

I accept that as accounting officer of Evolution 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.

By;

Improving educational results. At Costessey Infant school the slight downward trend in attainment by the time pupils leave the school has been reversed in 2014. Attainment measures for all pupils now stand at just better than national averages. The results for the 2014 Year 1 phonics test show a dramatic improvement of over 20% from significantly below national averages in both 2012 and 2013 to equal the national picture this year. (Evidence in Ofsted Raise online 2014.) The Trust must ensure this success continues and is the same for all pupil groups.

At Costessey Junior School good attainment that is significantly better than national averages has been achieved for the majority of pupil groups and subject areas. Additionally progress is generally ahead of national expectations but in 2014 was not so for all subjects; the pupil cohort concerned arriving in school four years ago significantly ahead of national expectations goes a long way in explaining this position. Again The Trust must ensure this success continues and is the same for all pupil groups and for attainment and progress.

The Trust has been very actively engaged in the support of other schools, for instance St Felix Primary School in Suffolk (see comment on National Leader support in Ofsted St Felix report Autumn 2014) The Trust, operating as a Primary Associate Academy, has provided much support to schools across the East that are considering or in the process of becoming academies. In January 2014 Evolution Academy Trust was approved as an academy sponsor by the DfE and has already commenced supporting schools that will soon become members of the Trust.

The Trust has 'lived within its means' during its second operating year with no major issues being raised and the Finance and Audit committee has recommended to Governors that the audit report should be accepted at their meeting. The Trust has been challenged by the Finance Officer, these services being purchased from another Academy, by regular reviews of the finances and the decision making. The school management and Finance Officer report to the Finance and Audit committee and routinely review risks and controls. Major services and contracts have been continued, savings have been made as a result of close working relationships between the Infant and Junior Schools and all matters pertaining to Health and Safety have been addressed.

The Trust has fully refurbished the entire school entrance and office accommodation to make for more efficient working and to afford a much more pleasant experience for visitors and staff. Spending has been increased on curriculum resources for pupils and these have been targeted to the areas in need of greatest development. The Trust has worked diligently to secure the recruitment and retention of both the quality and quantity of teachers required to further our school improvement agenda.

The Trust has continued its policy in generating income streams through hosting school improvement opportunities, best using its highly skilled staff, to support other schools.