

## Review of Value for Money: Year ended 31 August 2017

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 Governors of Thomas Keble are committed to achieving Best Value in all aspects of the school's work. We use principles of Best Value, as they apply to raising standards and meeting the need of all pupils. We will:

- regularly review the school's work;
- monitor outcomes and compare performance, with similar schools;
- consult widely about the school's work;
- promote fair competition to ensure that goods and services are secured in the most economic, efficient and effective way.

The budget for 16/17 had been set to achieve the above, with an emphasis on the following:

- A School Development Plan, which sets out key priorities, outcomes and targets.
- Whole school training, related to all of the above with an emphasis on "in-house" training where appropriate to enable us to save money regarding outside training costs and possible supply staff.
- Review of the support staff structure.
- Monitored and reviewed capitation to departments.
- Continued support to pupils through one-to-one tuition, extra-curricular opportunities, and individual counselling as necessary.
- Review of some contracts, for example telephone system and photocopiers to ensure that we have up-to-date equipment but ensuring value for money offset against needs of the school.
- Purchase of new I.T. equipment and review of I.T. licences and appropriate I.T. services, to support teaching and learning.
- Enhanced landscaping where the "old Elliotts" were so that pupils have improved outside social space.
- Ensured all income is accounted for and any grants ring-fenced accordingly.
- Continued use of our credit card so that we can take better advantage of on-line offers thus making savings in the school budget.
- Benchmarking with other schools in the Gloucestershire Area to review relevant costs and ensure value for money.
- Business Manager maintains close links with other Academy Schools, Accountants and our solicitors, plus a member of the local Business Managers' Forum (GASBM).
- Headteacher maintains close links with other schools through Headteachers' network (Gloucestershire Association of Secondary Heads) and attending appropriate courses.
- Update the Finance Policy in line with the Academy Finance Handbook.
- Review our Charging for School Activities Policy to ensure that trips etc. are cost-effective.



**Julia Maunder**  
**Headteacher (Accounting Officer)**