

Value for Money Statement

Academy trust name: Mercia Primary Academy Trust

Academy trust company number: 08748904

Year ended 31 August 2014

I accept that as accounting officer of Mercia Primary 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.

Improving Educational Results

Our Aim : Everyone is valued and shares responsibility for the challenging learning that takes place.

We believe that this year has been extremely successful for MPAT (Mercia Primary Academy Trust). Flax Hill has been identified by the DFE as a centre of excellence in the West Midland region with regards to its Pupil Premium progress. The school is now working with key educational partners including the DFE and Sutton Trust to spread this knowledge.

Progress in both schools has shown improvement with Lark Hall's KS1 results showing a marked improvement. Phonics results have again exceeded national expectations.

KS1 Progress and Attainment

Year 1	Below expected progress	Expected progress	Above expected progress	Average APS gain
Writing	7%	26%	67%	4.5
Reading	11%	11%	78%	4.3
Numeracy	7%	37%	56%	3.9
Year 2				
Writing		11%	89%	7
Reading		4%	96%	6.5
Numeracy		4%	96%	6.2

With Raise online data now available it is clear that Flax Hill, despite having considerably higher FSM than the national average consistently out performs national expectations.

Average Point Score Table for 2014 Year 6 results (taken from raise online)

Year		2010*	2011	2012	2013**	2014
All Subjects	Cohort	-	77	71	56	60
	School	-	27.4	28.9	29.1	29.5
	National	27.4	27.5	28.2	28.3	28.7
	Difference	-	-0.1	0.7	0.8	0.8
	Significance	-	-	-	-	-
Mathematics	Cohort	-	77	71	56	60
	School	-	27.4	28.6	29.7	29.6
	National	27.4	27.6	28.4	28.7	29.0
	Difference	-	-0.2	0.2	1.0	0.6
	Significance	-	-	-	-	-
Reading	Cohort	-	77	71	56	60
	School	-	28.7	29.7	28.5	29.8
	National	-	28.1	28.8	28.5	29.0
	Difference	-	0.6	0.9	0.0	0.8
	Significance	-	-	-	-	-
Writing(TA)	Cohort	-	77	71	56	60
	School	-	25.3	27.9	28.7	29.2
	National	-	26.4	27.3	27.5	27.9
	Difference	-	-1.1	0.6	1.2	1.3
	Significance	-	Sig	-	Sig+	-
English Grammar, Punctuation & Spelling	Cohort	-	-	-	56	60
	School	-	-	-	29.6	29.3
	National	-	-	-	28.0	28.6
	Difference	-	-	-	1.6	0.7
	Significance	-	-	-	-	-
English	Cohort	-	77	71	-	-
	School	-	27.4	29.2	-	-
	National	27.3	27.3	28.1	-	-
	Difference	-	0.1	1.1	-	-
	Significance	-	-	Sig+	-	-

Overview of MPAT by external sources

- Flax Hill selected by DFE as West Midlands Pupil Premium School of the Year
- Sutton Trust has identified Flax Hill as a case study of effective practice to be shared nationally
- Leadership team asked to speak at several National Events as Key Note speakers
- MPAT working as partner school to Oxford University press to provide training
- LEA has graded both schools as 'no support required'

Financial Governance and Oversight

- The Trust has a strong financial governance oversight. The Trust has an annual internal audit and financial health check provided by Staffordshire County Council. The service reviews the financial systems and procedure in place and their findings are reported back to the Trustees and Directors of the Trust.
- The finance committee received comprehensive termly reports.
- All contracts are renewed annually to ensure they are still fit for purpose and achieve best value. For example the Grounds Maintenance Contract has been re-negotiated for both Academies in the trust which has saved money and improved quality. The Trust

has also take out a joint Staff Absence Insurance Policy which again has resulted in considerable savings whilst maintaining the same level of cover.

- The Trust has a number of regular lettings to external providers which generates additional income.
- The Directors approve a balanced budget each year to ensure the Trust continues as a going concern. A reserve is maintained to respond to emergency and unforeseen situations and also to plan for future larger capital expenditure.
- Moving forward the Trust is actively involved with the local cluster of primary and secondary schools and it is hoped that further schools will join the MAT in the future.

Signed:

Name:

Academy Trust Accounting Officer

Date: