

Review of Value for Money: Year ended 31 August 2023

I have outlined below how I have ensured, as the Academy's Accounting Officer, that the Academy's use of its resources has provided good value for money during the academic year.

The Trustees of Alcester Academy are committed to achieving Best Value in all aspects of the school's work. We have adopted the principles of Best Value in order to raise standards and to meet the needs of our students. We have:

1. Reviewed the school's work on a regular basis.
2. Compared performance and outcomes with similar schools.
3. Consulted widely about the school's work.
4. Used fair competition to ensure that goods and services are secured in the most economic, efficient and effect way.

The budget for 23/24 was set to support the above, using the following strategy:

1. Setting out key priorities, outcomes and targets in a School Development Plan.
2. Training all staff appropriately using predominantly online courses to save money and only using external trainers sparingly and inviting other schools to participate and share the costs.
3. Reviewed Capitation budgets for Departments and monitored these closely.
4. Offered support to students in a variety of ways, including, individual counselling, one-to-one tuition and extra-curricular activities.
5. Ensured all income is accounted for and monitored appropriately.
6. Use of school credit cards to facilitate online purchases, thereby securing competitive prices and deals.
7. Use of benchmarking websites and tools for comparison with similar schools.
8. Business Manager manages spending, reviews contracts and SLA's regularly, maintains links with business colleagues and Accountants and is a member of a local Business Managers Group.
9. Head Teacher maintains links with other Heads in the area via the SWEP forum.
10. The Finance Policy is updated and in line with the Academy Trust Handbook and other Government guidance and legislation.
11. Regular reviewing potential cost savings throughout school but specifically around staffing costs, if staff leave, reviewing roles, responsibilities and experience required to fill vacancies.

Sarah Mellors
Head Teacher & Accounting Officer