

Value for Money Statement

Academy trust name: Balcarras School

Academy trust company number: 119474

Year ended 31 August 2017

I accept that as accounting officer of **Balcarras School** 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.

Raising student achievement

We provide our pupils with an education of the highest quality so that they leave us with the qualifications, skills and personal qualities they need to lead a successful life.

To achieve this, we will ensure:

- Our commitments to the highest academic standards.
- A caring and stimulating environment.
- A wide range of extra-curricular activities.
- A partnership with parents, business and the local community.

These aims have been pursued successfully throughout this last year, as shown by our pupils' very strong performance in public examinations once again.

Achievement for all students

Balcarras has fully embedded a student tracking system that monitors levels of progress from Key Stage 2 through to post 16. Balcarras also monitors the attendance and behaviour of all pupils carefully, with attendance being consistently above national expectations.

Balcarras School will ensure that, where possible, additional needs of individual pupils will be met and appropriate resources (staff and equipment) will be made available such as one to one support or stretch and challenge for the more able pupils.

Excellent facilities

A substantial programme of building improvements was carried out over the summer, following a careful tendering process, and as a result we have added to our high quality accommodation and facilities, including increasing our Music facility, adding a new Science Lab and creating a covered dining area.


Robust governance and financial oversight

Balcarras School has a dedicated Finance committee, who are responsible for determining the school’s financial priorities linking this to the long term vision, the School Development Plan and directions given by the Full Governing Body.

Items for discussion and action by the committee are:

1. To approve the start budget for the financial year.
2. To consider a budget position statement including virement decisions at least termly and to report significant anomalies from the anticipated position to the Governing Body.
3. To ensure that the school operates within the Financial Regulations set out in the Academies Financial Handbook.
4. To annually review and appoint the independent examiner (Internal Auditor) and the External Accountants, in line with EFA guidelines.
5. To review appropriate financial benchmarking data, in order to compare the schools financial performance with other similar schools.
6. To ensure that ring fenced funding streams, such as Pupil Premium, will be used as directed and to maximum effect.
7. To make decisions on expenditure following recommendations from other committees.
8. To ensure, as far as is practical, that Health and Safety issues are appropriately prioritised.
9. To determine whether sufficient funds are available for staff pay increments and increases.
10. To assess the possibility of further collaborative work with other education providers and business links that will allow for increased sharing of good practice.
11. To ensure that the academy is a going concern and will remain viable for the foreseeable future.

As the accounting officer for Balcarras School I am aware that I have personal responsibility to Parliament for regularity (spending money for the purposes intended by Parliament), propriety (handling money honestly and avoiding conflicts of interest) and value for money.

Signed: 

Name: Dominic Burke

Academy Trust Accounting Officer

Date: 17-7-17