



THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF ST THOMAS MORE ROMAN CATHOLIC ACADEMY BEST VALUE STATEMENT

Introduction

The Board of Directors are accountable for the way in which the Academy's resources are allocated to meet the objectives set out in the Academy's development plans. The Directors need to secure the best possible outcome for students, in the most efficient and effective way, at a reasonable cost. This will lead to continuous improvement in the Academy's achievements and services.

What Is Best Value?

The Directors will apply the four principles of *best value*:

- **Challenge** - Is the Academy's performance high enough? Why and how is a service provided? Do we still need it? Can it be delivered differently? What do parents want?
- **Compare** - Through any emerging Academy guidance, we will develop ways in which to benchmark against similar organisations.
- **Consult** - How does the Academy seek the views of stakeholders about the services the Academy provides?
- **Compete** - How does the Academy secure efficient and effective services? Are services of appropriate quality, economic?

The Directors' Approach

The Directors and the Director of Finance will apply the principles of *best value* when making decisions about:

- the allocation of resources to best promote the aims and values of the Academy
- the targeting of resources to best improve standards and the quality of provision
- the use of resources to best support the various educational needs of all students

Directors, and the Director of Finance, will:

- make comparisons with other/similar Academies using data when available and in line with Government legislation
- challenge proposals, examining them for effectiveness, efficiency, and cost, e.g. setting of annual student achievement targets
- require suppliers to compete on grounds of cost, and quality/suitability of services/products/backup
- consult individuals and organisations on quality/suitability of service we provide to parents and students, and services we receive from suppliers

This will apply in particular to:

- staffing
- use of premises
- use of resources
- quality of teaching
- quality of learning
- purchasing
- students' welfare
- health and safety

Directors and the Director of Finance:

- will not waste time and resources on investigating minor areas where few improvements can be achieved
- will not waste time and resources to make minor savings in costs
- will not waste time and resources by seeking tenders for minor supplies and services, although consideration will be given at all times to the Academies Financial Handbook.

The pursuit of minor improvements or savings is not cost effective if the administration involves substantial time or costs.

Staffing

Directors and senior managers will deploy staff to provide best value in terms of quality of teaching, quality of learning, adult-student ratio, and curriculum management.

Use of Premises

Directors and senior managers will consider the allocation and use of teaching areas, support areas and communal areas, to provide the best environment for teaching and learning, for support services, and for communal access to central resources, e.g. the library. Where practical the Directors will support the use of the premises and facilities for members/groups within the community.

Use of Resources

Directors and senior managers will deploy equipment, materials and services to

provide students and staff with resources which support quality of teaching and quality of learning.

Teaching

Directors and senior managers will review the quality of curriculum provision and quality of teaching, to provide parents and students with:

- a curriculum which meets the requirements of the National Curriculum, National Literacy Strategy and National Numeracy Strategy, the Diocesan Agreed RE Syllabus, and the needs of students
- teaching which builds on previous learning and has high expectations of students' achievement

Learning

Directors and senior managers will review the quality of students' learning, by cohort, class and group, to provide teaching which enables students to achieve nationally expected progress, e.g. setting of annual student achievement targets.

Purchasing

Directors and the Director of Finance will develop procedures for assessing need, and obtaining goods and services which provide "best value" in terms of suitability, efficiency, time, and cost. Measures already in place include:

- competitive tendering procedures and are in line with the requirement of the Academies Financial Handbook
- In accordance with the Academies Financial Handbook:
 - goods and services between £1,000 and £10,000 will require 3 written quotations
 - a formal tendering procedure will be applied for goods and services between £10,000 and £173,934
 - for goods and services over £173,934 OJEU (Official Journal of the European Union) will apply
- procedures for accepting "best value" quotes, which may not necessarily be the cheapest (e.g. suitability for purpose, quality of workmanship and specialist provision)
- procedures for the purchase of goods or services under £1000 direct from known, reliable suppliers (e.g. stationery, small equipment) which require submission from the budget holder for approval from the Director of Finance.

Students' Welfare

Directors and the Director of Finance will review the quality of the physical Academy environment and the Academy ethos, in order to provide a supportive environment conducive to learning and recreation.

Health & Safety

The Director of Finance will review the quality of the Academy environment and equipment, carrying out risk assessments where appropriate, in order to provide a safe working environment for students, staff and visitors. An annual Health and Safety inspection will be undertaken by the Chair of the Board of Directors, the Director with responsibility for Health and Safety and the Director of Finance, to be reported back to the full Board of Directors.

Monitoring

These areas will be monitored for best value by:

1. In-house monitoring by the Headteacher and curriculum managers, e.g. classroom practice, work sampling
2. Termly target setting meetings between the Headteacher and curriculum managers
3. Annual Performance Management
4. Annual Budget Planning and monitoring with the Director of Finance
5. Headteacher's regular financial review meeting with the Director of Finance
6. Analyses of student performance data, e.g. SATs results, 'A' Level and GCSE reports, LA schools, similar schools
7. Analyses of LA student performance data
8. Analyses of DFE student performance data, e.g. RAISEonline, PANDA
9. OFSTED Inspection reports
10. Directors' termly committee meetings
11. Directors' full termly meetings

In the next three years the Board of Directors of the Academy will:

- hold an annual performance plan meeting to set targets for improving student achievement.
- hold an annual development plan meeting.
- discuss "Best Value" at each Autumn Term meeting of the Finance Committee.
- review their "Best Value" statement at each Spring Term meeting.
- consider best value when arranging internal and external maintenance contracts.
- obtain tenders and a consultant's advice on any large scale refurbishment of the premises.
- obtain asset management surveys .



Agreed by the Board of Directors:..... (Chair)

Date:26.11.13.....