

Value for Money Statement - Year ending 31st August 2014



Over the last financial period, Rendell Primary School has taken a wide range of steps to ensure that the achievement of pupils has continued to improve.

The School has focussed on targeted improvement linked to the School Development Plan to ensure maximum impact on outcomes for pupils. This has included ensuring that the school was ready to deliver a new curriculum in September 2014. Staff have been provided with support from leaders to help them ensure the successful implementation of this new curriculum. The School has invested in high quality CPD to further improve the quality of teaching across the school using 'Active Learning' strategies. In addition, the school has introduced Maths Makes Sense to strengthen pupils learning and accelerate progress in mathematics. We expect it to take 2 years to fully feel the benefits of this new teaching strategy and maximise pupils attainment. Outcomes at Rendell Primary School continue to rise with progress and attainment in line with or above those achieved nationally.

The School has further strengthened its collaboration with Loughborough Primary Academy Partnership. This has enabled quality assurance checks to be carried out confirming the school's judgment of its performance. Curriculum and leadership networks are working effectively to improve practice in areas such as group purchasing of services and resources through School Business Managers and curriculum leaders. Site Managers and Premises Officers are streamlining Health & Safety routines, recording systems and are now starting to investigate supplier chains to strengthen purchasing power and achieve economies of scale.

Financial procedures have been tightened so that there is greater accountability and clarity of role. The range of activities available to parents outside normal Rendell Primary School hours continues to develop. The school has successfully implemented free Rendell Primary School meals for all Key Stage 1 children and the kitchen now provides nearly 150 nutritional meals a day and the income from this supports the overall work of the school. The School has produced a detailed financial analysis of how the pupil premium funding was spent and the impact of the funding for pupils. Similarly, funding for catch up groups and booster groups for pupils is calculated in the same way. The emphasis has been on providing quality first teaching and reducing the reliance on support staff.

The School has internal controls in place to ensure strict financial procedures are followed. A Responsible Officer is appointed to make independent checks. The management receives regular budget reports which are analysed to identify areas of overspend and underspend. Regular monitoring ensures the best use of resources and prevents waste. Bank balances are carefully monitored and sufficient funds are available for any financial emergency. The School purchases a commercial combined insurance

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package and also a staff absence insurance to ensure it has adequate cover to manage risks.

During the past year, the school has spent significant amounts of money on improving the fabric of its buildings so that an attractive and stimulating environment is provided for all pupils. Governance provided strong challenge over such purchases and all contracts and services for the School are always appraised and approved to ensure value for money. Over some projects the School has chosen an option that was not the cheapest but was the most cost effective over time. This was the case with the creation of 2 new classrooms this year.

There is a constant desire within the school to improve through better systems that lead to better outcomes for pupils. Value for money is a key part of ensuring we are able to do this.