

## **The White Hills Park Federation Trust**

Alderman White School UPIN: 122717

The Bramcote School UPIN: 122719

I was appointed to the post of Executive Headteacher and Accounting Officer on 1<sup>st</sup> January 2014. Prior to my appointment I spent time with the previous postholder to ensure an effective transition.

The staff and Directors / Trustees of The White Hills Park Federation Trust (The Federation) are committed to continuous improvement, ongoing monitoring and evaluation of the individual schools' performance and to the achievement of best value.

The Federation is committed to the Improvement planning process. As an ongoing process the Leadership Team regularly reviews the Federation Improvement Plan. The priorities originate from self-evaluation (SEF) and lead to raising achievement for learners either directly or indirectly. Spending is closely linked to the plan and reflects the Federation's educational and developmental priorities.

The Federation will generate opportunities in terms of enhanced curriculum provision to the students of both schools and the sharing of the individual schools resources and activities provide a greater level of value for money.

The Federation has identified funding (including the Pupil Premium) which is used to target individual students and ensure that any barriers to their learning is overcome; for example

- additional support to improve key skills such as Literacy,
- additional support to ensure university admission requirements are met
- a broad curriculum which meets the needs of all students .

The Federation has introduced initiatives to raise the ambition and motivation of students; for example our Graduation Programme. A separate fund has also been established to provide enrichment opportunities for all students and over 90% of students engage in such activities; for example,

- performing arts
- sports teams and activities
- foreign visits and exchanges
- community projects

### **Reviewing operation to maximise efficient use of resources**

The Trust has recently implemented a full staffing restructure of the teaching leadership posts. This resulted in a reduction of posts both on the leadership scale and those with allocated TLR payments. This resulted in a projected saving of £252,000 per annum. The new structure going forward is appropriate and is considered the optimum to meet the needs of our current student numbers and to impact positively on student outcomes.

The Trust also appointed a Management Accountant to enhance the management of the financial reporting to Directors and other key stakeholders. This ensures that Directors are apprised of the financial position of the Trust on a statutory basis. This allows Directors to make informed decisions regarding the effective and appropriate use of public funds.

The Federation continues to review its suppliers for value for money and invests time in seeking the best deals available. Currently the provision of all utilities and key services, catering, cleaning and grounds are all under review to ensure value for money. The Federation schools have benchmarked themselves on financial performance indicators that assist the schools with preparation of budgets which are coupled with medium term planning to ensure best value.

### **Financial controls and oversight**

The Trust's Resources committee on behalf of the full board have a strong oversight of the financial management of the Trust's allocated funding. Our external auditors undertake termly visits to review the financial controls of the Trust. There have been no significant weaknesses noted in all of the audits this year and the final summer audit had no recommendations.

All budget holders produce a budget plan which is approved by the Finance Officer and myself as Executive Headteacher. All spending is checked against this plan.

### **Review**

The Trust has now completed its second year of operations and has changed considerably during this time. We are continuing to learn about the autonomy and flexibility available to us linked to the responsibility of managing a public purse.

The **main priority** remains to ensure that teaching and learning continue to improve so that they impact on outcomes for students thus raising their achievement.

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: 24 November 2014  
Executive Headteacher / Accounting Officer