**20 Questions – Finance**

1. Are resources allocated in line with the organisation’s strategic priorities?
2. Does the organisation have a clear budget forecast, ideally for the next three years, which identifies spending opportunities and risks and sets how these will be mitigated?
3. Does the organisation have sufficient reserves to cover major changes such as re-structuring, and any risks identified in the budget forecast?
4. Is the organisation making best use of its budget, including in relation to planning and delivery of the curriculum?
5. Does the organisation plan its budgets on a bottom up basis driven by curriculum planning (i.e. is the school spending its money in accordance with its priorities) or is the budget set by simply making minor adjustments to last year’s budget to ensure there is a surplus?
6. Are the organisation’s assets and financial resources being used efficiently?
7. How can better value for money be achieved from the budget?
8. Is the organisation complying with basic procurement rules and ensuring it gets the best deal available when buying goods and services in order to reinvest savings into teaching and learning priorities?
9. Is the organisation taking advantages of opportunities to collaborate with other schools to generate efficiencies through pooling funding where permitted, purchasing services jointly and sharing staff, functions, facilities and technology across sites?
10. How much finding does the school receive?
11. What are the % of staffing costs is this in line with other schools of a similar size?
12. Is the PE Sports grant used appropriately? Is there any evidence of impact?
13. How has the school spent the EYPP allowances which need to be directed to individual children?
14. How is the allocation of SEN money being spent? What is the impact?
15. How are school educational visits charged?
16. Does the organisation access the schools financial benchmarking website to compare spending?
17. What is the school’s system to ensure value for money?
18. Does the school maintain its premises and other assets to an adequate standard to avoid future urgent need for replacement?
19. Give examples of where the school has made improvements, is this reflected with the amount of budget spent?
20. Is the carry forward balance in line with the Academy’s expectations and is there a clear plan for using the money in holds at the end of each financial year?