Finding

Risk and Consequence

Action Proposed, Date by and Responsible Officer/ Person.

Value for Money

1. It was identified during testing that the School had purchased ink and toner cartridges from a supplier that cost, on average, 4 times above the lowest price available as a result of market research.

At the beginning of the year it was identified by the Head teacher that an upgrade of IT equipment was required in order to prepare for Ofsted. On the recommendation of the 25 refurbished HP Pavilion laptops and 25 solid state hard drives (SSD), which were bought to upgrade the laptops on arrival. were purchased. The motivation for the hard drive upgrade was that they would provide increased performance and durability. The unit price for these laptops and SSD was £398.99 exc VAT, where market research shows that the same items could have been purchased for £341.50 exc VAT.

- (SOA)

There has been failure to obtain best value on the purchase of ink and toner cartridges and upgraded IT equipment.

This is a breach of the **Scheme for Financing Schools - Section 2.6**Efficiency and Value for Money which states that 'schools must seek to achieve efficiencies and value for money, to optimise the use of their resources and to invest in teaching and learning, taking into account the Authority's purchasing, tendering and contracting requirements'.

The potential overspend and loss of funds for the School, in the first example is estimated at £16k on expenditure of £21k. In the second example the loss is estimated at £1,437 on expenditure of £9,974.

The school are looking to appoint a new member of staff and to review the job description of the school envisage that this will be a two tier process. The first stage being the appointment of a full time temporary (After interview and skills appraisal an administrative assistant was appointed from the Government Apprentice scheme, who will take up duties from 6th January 2014). This member of staff will be responsible for receiving, unpacking and entering new items on the school inventory. This person will also be responsible for implementing and operating a robust and secure stock control system for items such as ink cartridges. The will be line managed by the

The second phase of the process is the review of the second phase of the process is the review of the second phase of the process is the review of the second phase of the process is the review of the second phase of the process and responsibilities, which will be undertaken by the Head Teacher, Chair of Governors and Link Governor for ICT. Job description information will be obtained from PCC. Until such an appointment is made all orders for ink cartridges and ICT equipment will be checked by the link governor for ICT.

The Finance and Staffing sub-committee

and monitored

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| | | commissioned the price survey of ink and toner cartridges from permitted suppliers using criteria of named brand, high quality, stipulating no refills, from approximately six suppliers, including the historical supplier This information to be made available at the next Finance and Staffing sub-committee meeting on the 10 th December 2013. Action point: Short term: Obtain price comparison information. All orders for ICT equipment and cartridges to be monitored. Appointment of Administrative Assistant. Medium term: Stock control system to be implemented. The role and responsibilities of the to be reviewed using PCC guidelines, by the Head Teacher and a governor from the Finance and Staffing sub-committee, training needs to be identified. Long term: Regular stock and inventory checks to be carried out by school staff and monitored by a representative of the Governing body. The school to consider developing a resource management role to | |

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| | | | include role. |
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| 2. | During a site visit to the School it was established that thirty five monitor screens are being stored in the loft. Following discussions with the and the Head teacher it was confirmed that the future use of them is undetermined although they are usable and are in working condition. | High Risk - (SOA) There is an operational and financial risk that storing assets in a remote location will place the in a vulnerable position as damage to, or the loss or theft of assets may go undetected. Additionally valuable assets are not being utilised and may become obsolete over time. | A procedure is in place to 'write off' equipment that is old and surplus to requirements. The school have taken advice regarding the disposal of the obsolete items and have agreed to pay to have them removed. **Action point:** Short term: 'Write off' forms are being used to write off equipment that is old or obsolete. These will be signed by the Head Teacher and a representative from the Governing Body, within a reasonable time scale of not more than one working week. Medium term: A quote has been obtained; and an order will be raised for the disposal of monitor screens as soon as possible. |
| 3. | During an examination of the Schools server room and class rooms it was identified that 28 (24 Hard Drive Disk (HDD) & 4 Solid State Drive (SSD)) hard drives were situated in carrier bags (with leads and wires) or desk drawers. Hard drives are fragile items of equipment and should be safely secured when not in use. | High Risk - (SOA) The lack of internal control for monitoring and checking assets places all staff, but especially the in a vulnerable position as damage to, or the loss or theft of assets may go undetected. | Future purchases of ICT equipment over £1,000 per any single order will be referred to the Finance and Staffing sub-committee. (As per recommendations in the PCC Scheme for Financing Schools) Instructions will be given to the to ensure that all equipment is safely, efficiently and tidily stored. The has been reminded of |

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| | Additionally, as above, valuable assets (to the estimated value of £1,332.00) are not being utilised and may become obsolete over time. | the process for 'writing off' and disposing of obsolete equipment and has agreed to record such items appropriately, this to be line managed by the Head Teacher. All items to be disposed of will be recorded on the appropriate pro-forma. Action point: Short term: All orders for ICT equipment/cartridges to be monitored by the link Governor for ICT. has been reminded of the process for 'writing off' obsolete/old equipment using the appropriate pro-forma. A letter has been sent reminding the process of that all equipment should be stored, efficiently, safely and tidily. All items with a value of £200 or more and which are portable or attractive will be included on the inventory. |
| Stock records | | |
| 4. During the period April 2012 to July 2013 £21,416.00 was spent by the School on ink and toner cartridges. There is no evidence that stock control records were kept for the monitor and use of these items. | - (SOA) The lack of internal control for monitoring and checking stock or IT equipment places all staff in a vulnerable position as damage to, private use of or the loss or theft of | The control of stock will become part of the job description of the new (see item 1) The link Governor for ICT will liaise with the appropriate staff to ensure that purchases reflect and are in line with the Schools ICT Strategic plan. |

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For the same period £38,116.00 was spent by the School on computer supplies which included hardware, software and general items. There is no evidence that stock control records were kept for the monitor and use of those items that do not fit the School's criteria to be recorded on the Inventory. The estimated value for these items is £12,288.00.

The job description of the stipulates that he is required to maintain an inventory of IT stock.

assets could potentially occur and go undetected.

Additionally, there is no evidence that the IT purchases were an efficient use of resources.

The current function of the will be reviewed by the Head Teacher, Chair of Governors and the link Governor for ICT (see also item 9) The outcome of which will be discussed at the Finance and Staffing governors sub-committee meeting. Action point:

Medium term:

- The current function of the will be reviewed taking into account the changing needs of the school.
- Outcome of review findings to be discussed by the Finance and Staffing governors sub-committee.

Inventory and Safeguarding of Assets

5. During the course of testing it was established that ten of the fifty six promotional items which were sent to the School as a result of bulk purchasing with one company were unaccounted for.

In addition, it was also noted that the number of hard drives purchased by the school as identified by relevant invoices (23) did not correlate with the number of drives physically sighted (14).

Action required:

These items must either be located and recorded on the School Inventory or, as

- (CMP)

As a result of the lack of internal administration and control, damage to, private use of, or the loss or theft of, these items could potentially occur and go undetected.

PCC Financial Rule G27 stipulates that School Governors and Head teachers are required to make arrangements for the care and custody of stocks and stores in their service and to ensure that adequate records are kept and that reasonable levels are maintained which are subject to a regular independent

The will keep a register of any promotional/ donations/ gifts that the school receive. This to be an agenda item, every term at the Finance and Staffing governors' sub-committee meeting, where any concerns can be raised.

This will not include items below the value of £5 donated for raffles, tombola etc. A policy will be drafted and adopted by the full governing body at their next meeting covering the above.

All staff have signed to acknowledge receipt of hard drives. Further investigations will take place to ascertain location of all equipment. Items located will either be added to the Gift register or submitted for the 'write off' procedure.

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write-off to the Authority's Section 151 Officer as per section 2.3.6 of the Scheme for Financing Schools

physical check. All discrepancies should be investigated and pursued to a satisfactory conclusion.

Action point:

Short term:

- Register of promotional/donations/gifts to be implemented.
- Promotional/donations/gifts policy to be adopted by governors.
- Checks to ascertain location of the 23 hard drives have been carried out 22 have been located and 1 was reported as stolen in Summer 2013
- All hard drives have been added to the appropriate register. (see attached document)

6. As at July 2013 there were 730 items recorded on the School inventory. An initial search by Internal Audit staff of the School and store rooms located 668 items. However, there were also 72 items that were not recorded on the inventory but identified during the search. Following several subsequent searches by either Internal Audit or School staff. 35 items were still not found (Note small items such as keyboards/ blenders and musical instruments were excluded).

- (SOA)

The School has unaccounted assets

and therefore no assurances can be given that theft has not occurred... The Scheme for Financing Schools -2.3.4 Control of assets, stipulates that: schools must maintain an inventory, which as a basic minimum includes all items with a value of over £200, or which are deemed portable and attractive. The information required for inventory items over £1,000 should be consistent with the requirements of Portsmouth City Council's Financial Rules and should be kept up to date.

Monthly inventory checks will be carried out by a representative of the governing body to ensure that all new items have been added to the inventory. Any discrepancies will be reported to the Head Teacher. This will also include small/portable items as recommended by PCC. A copy of the inventory will be sent monthly to: The Authority, the Head Teacher and the **see** , by the representative of the governing body. Regular, monthly inventory checks will also be carried out by the Action point:

Short term:

- Arrangements for monthly inventory checks will be made.
- Copies of inventory to be sent to

By the 31st December 2013 Short term: By the 24th February 2014 Medium term: By the 31st March 2014 Long term:

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| 7. Manual disposal sheets are in place to evidence authorisation of asset disposal. The majority of these sheets do not record the reason for disposal and dates indicate that authorisation was obtained after disposal - in some instances up to two months later. | - (SOA) The School's assets are at risk of theft as items may have been used for personal use. There is also a risk that assets have been disposed of whilst still serviceable. PCC Financial Rule G25(f) states that Head Teachers may write off redundant, obsolete or damaged items in accordance with instructions issued by the Governors in the case of schools. | PCC, Head Teacher and Staffing governor's sub-committee to carry out random spot checks. All staff will be reminded of the 'write off'/disposal procedure for obsolete equipment. All items to be disposed of will be recorded on the appropriate pro-forma. The signature of two members of staff will be required in order that items are 'written off' the inventory. Copies of the disposal forms to be given to the Action point: Short term: All staff will be made aware of the correct procedure for writing off old/obsolete equipment. Approved forms for writing off equipment will be used and copies given to the and maintain a file. Write off' forms will be used to write off equipment that is old or obsolete. These will be signed by the Head Teacher and a representative from the Governing Body, within a reasonable time scale of not more than one working week. |
| Policies & Procedures | | |
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Audit review it became apparent by either individual acknowledgement or evidenced by breaches that a significant number of

Finding

staff at

 Not fully aware of the requirements of the Scheme for Financing Schools, the Authority's Financial Rules or the School's own policies, i.e. Gifts and Hospitality and Curriculum IT use or had.

were either:

 Or had failed to adhere to them either due to lack of knowledge or potential deliberate circumvention. Risk and Consequence

The School is exposed to the risk of potential financial penalties as a result of non-compliance with HMRC and Data Protection Legislation.

The school are unable to evidence that they have obtained value for money in the procurement of goods and services

Staff are vulnerable to accusations of theft and fraud.

sub committee and staff with a financial responsibility have been given a copy of PCC's Scheme for Financing Schools. A new policy/procedure for recording gifts and hospitality will be implemented and all staff will be made aware of its contents. (see also point 5)

Action point:

Short term:

- All Governors and staff with a financial responsibility have been given a copy of Portsmouth City Council's Scheme for Financing Schools. Staff will be asked to sign to say they have received the information, the to hold the record.
- Policy for acceptance and recording of promotional offers/gifts and hospitality will be distributed to all staff. Staff will be asked to sign to say they have received the information, the to hold the record.

 Although the School has an IT Curriculum Policy there is no IT Strategy or long term vision required to outline the future ICT needs of the school or a maintenance and replacement schedule for the equipment.

There is also no disposal policy for the removal of data and safeguarding of

High Risk- (ICEN)

Expenditure decisions are based on short terms needs instead of a longer term vision and strategy, resulting in potential spending limitations and a failure to provide adequate and appropriate resources in the future.

The School is exposed to financial

A Governor has been identified with a brief for ICT. Regular monthly meetings have been planned with curriculum leaders who will form an ICT Forum. This Forum will make recommendations, based on the ICT Strategic Plan, to the School Improvement Plan.

The and link governor will be asked to compile a disposal of data and

Finding Risk and Consequence Action Proposed. Date by and Responsible Officer/ Person. information penalties if sensitive data and safeguarding of information policy. Once adopted this will be distributed to staff who information is not safeguarded. i.e. A will sign to say they have received the Breach of the Data Protection Act information. The to hold the record. (DPA) could result in a maximum A review of ICT technical support and £500,000 fine for a serious breach by services at the school will be carried out by a public body. the Head Teacher. Chair of Governors and the link governor. This to take into account Prosecutions could also occur the integral part ICT plays in the School dependent on the severity of any Improvement Plan and pupils learning. breach **Action point:** Medium term: o Safeguarding of information and disposal of data policy/procedure to be drafted, in line with PCC quidelines by and link Governor for ICT. The job description of the will be reviewed taking into account the changing needs of the school. 10. All Governors, the Head teacher and any High Risk- (ICEN) The Clerk to the Governors already holds a file where all information regarding the members of staff with financial Non-compliance could result in: a pecuniary interest of Governors and staff responsibilities must submit an annual reputational risk as non-declaring of with a financial responsibility is held. declaration of interest and refrain from at pecuniary interest could potentially These are updated on a yearly basis. participating in the appointment of place the School and member of staff Pecuniary interest is recorded in the contractors where there is a clear conflict in a vulnerable position or a financial minutes at the start of every governors risk that the school are unable to of interest. meetina. evidence that they have obtained **Action point:** value for money in the procurement Short term: of goods and services. All staff have now been requested

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| | | to complete these forms. hold and maintain a file. Nature of pecuniary interest to be recorded in minutes of all meetings to avoid any conflict of interest. Governors, members of staff declaring pecuniary interest to be excluded from any decision making connected to the interest. |
| 11. Testing identified that for the financial years 2011/12, 2012/13 and 2013/14 to date, expenditure for the purchase of ink and toner cartridges was found to have been coded to various other budget headings instead of all of it to the correct budget heading i.e. Printer and Ink. No explanation for this action has been provided. In addition to this there is no evidence that the over spend on ink and toner was presented accurately to the Head teacher or the Governing Body. | - (R&I) A satisfactory explanation has not been given as to why expenditure has been regularly miscoded and unauthorised by the Head teacher or Governing Body. The School is therefore unable to evidence that they have obtained value for money in the procurement of goods and services | Action point: Short term: The will in future ensure all shortfalls in budget planning are addressed through the process of virement. This will support the process of ongoing budget planning being based on actual need/useage and enable the Finance and Staffing sub-committee to monitor budget expenditure more effectively. The Finance and Staffing sub-committee to identify level of virement that is delegated to the Head Teacher. The will sign an undertaking |
| One action required: Expenditure must be coded to the correct area and not hidden by means of coding to underspent alternative headings. | | that under no circumstances will they use the practice of 'split coding'. All budget overspend with detailed explanations to be presented to the governors at the Finance and |

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| All proposed individual budget overspends must be reported and if deemed appropriate ratified by the Governing Body or Head teacher (if within delegated spending limits) prior to any further expenditure being incurred. Contractual Hours & Monitoring of Performance | | Staffing sub-committee meetings by the Remedial action will be taken to address these variances. Minutes of meetings will reflect all decisions made. |
| 12. During testing it was identified that the School held no records for the period of the end of January 2013 to July 2013 of the hours worked by the Head teacher in the summer of 2012 where the was asked to make up contracted hours paid for but not worked. In addition to this the was asked to worked. In addition to this the was asked to worked. In addition to this the was asked to make up contracted hours paid for but not worked. In addition to this the was asked to make up contracted hours paid for but not worked. In addition to this the was asked to make up contracted hours paid for but not worked. In addition to this the was asked to make up contracted hours paid for but not worked. In addition to this the was asked to make up contracted hours paid for but not worked. | High Risk - (EOO) Financial risk that the School may be paying for services that they are not actually receiving. The School is therefore unable to evidence that value for money has been obtained in the procurement of services | The second is now accountable for recording and submitting his hours on a weekly basis. This is checked by a and monitored by the Head Teacher. Action point: Short term: Hours worked by be recorded and approved weekly. Status of ICT (volunteer) support worker to be clarified and reviewed All volunteer workers in school to be approved by a member of the Senior Leadership Team and recorded in minutes of their meetings. |

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Server Room and Access

The Server Room also appear to be being used as a storage room with items of equipment stacked unsafely on top of one another. Most of the items had to be removed in order to physically enter the room and examine the servers and record the items of equipment stored.

High Risk- (EOO)

Unauthorised access may lead to accidental or deliberate tampering of the server and School's IT capability resulting in a disruption to teaching, preparation and all other school work.

There is a risk of physical injury in accessing the server room, a risk of damage to the equipment stored and a waste of resource in time spent carrying out general maintenance.

The school has a problem with lack of storage space and therefore have to make best use of all space available. Action point:

Short term:

- The will liaise with the and ask him to install a digital locking system to the door of the Server Room therefore restricting access to the and the Head Teacher only.
- A letter has been sent to the to ensure that all equipment is stored safely, efficiently and tidily.
- Regular monthly checks to be made by the Head Teacher.

HMRC and **VAT** Implications

removing items in and out.

14. It was confirmed by the IT that he had installed two new hard drives into staff members' personal laptops that are used in the School. This would constitute a 'benefit in kind' and would need to be declared as part of the

High Risk- (CMP)

There is a legislative and financial risk that a breach of HMRC regulations may result in a financial penalty to the school.

Action point:

Short term:

 A letter has been written to the to inform him that he must no longer carry out personal work for himself or staff members, on the school site.

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| School's P11d tax return to HMRC or the Authority could receive a substantial fine for incorrectly reclaiming VAT on these purchases and for non-declaration of a benefit in kind. | | The Head Teacher to send letters to the members of staff concerned requesting that they repay to the school 50% of the cost of the equipment and installation. |
| Promotional Items | | |
| 15. Fifty six promotional items had been received by the School from one supplier. The promotions appear to be as a result of purchasing various items from that company - potentially as part of a marketing strategy. None of the items had been recorded on the School's Gift's and Hospitality Register and 23 of the items should have been, but were not recorded on the School's inventory. Action required: The School must at all times demonstrate that they are obtaining value for money. If this is achieved and a promotional item is received then the item must be registered on the Gifts and Hospitality Register, recorded on the inventory (if appropriate) and at all times used by the School. A full management trail must be in place to demonstrate receipt and use. | High Risk- (SOA) The School has failed to follow agreed policy and is unable to provide assurances that its assets have been safeguarded or that its funds have been used effectively. | Action point: Short term: The school has recently received the PCC Gifts and Hospitality model policy. This policy was adopted at the Finance and Staffin sub-committee meeting on the 10 th December 2013 and will be ratified by all Governors at their meeting of the 23 rd January 2014. The will at all times obtain comparable data from three supplies on the PCC recommende 'Pick List' to demonstrate best value. |

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16. A television was received at the school during 2012 as part of a promotional offer from a supplier. This was placed in the Schools Summer Fare raffle and was apparently exchanged for Tesco vouchers worth half the value of the television. This arrangement was arranged privately between

authorised by either the Head teacher or the Governing Body and was to the detriment of the School.

High Risk- (ICEN)

The School is unable to provide assurances that staff have acted with integrity or honesty.

Action point:

Short term:

- The school will, with immediate effect implement a register of all promotional/ donations/ gifts that they receive over the value of £5.
- No items will be taken off this register without being recorded, reallocated and approved by the Governors Finance and Staffing sub-committee.
- A letter will be sent to and and outlining the approved process for disposal of items.
- All staff to be informed of the Gifts and Hospitality policy and the procedure for recording data
- has offered, and will repay to the school the difference, based on current values.

Loft and Storage Room

17. Whilst performing a physical verification of the Schools assets, Internal Audit were advised of a 'loft' used for storage. The loft was located by means of using a chair to climb out of a second floor window, onto a placed chair on a flat roof, followed by a walk over two further flat roofs to a vertical ladder (five steps) and hatch approximately four foot high. The loft runs

- (CMP)

There is a risk of physical injury and or death.

In relation to the storing of pupil data there is a potential Breach of Data Protection Act Principle 7 'Appropriate technical and organisational measures shall be taken against This issue will be passed to the Governors of the Premises and Site sub Committee with a request that investigations be carried out into the feasibility of the development of this area.

Governors have given approval for the 35 flat screen monitors that are approximately six years old and surplus to requirements

to be disposed of. As recommended by PCC Ltd will be requested to

Finding

Risk and Consequence

Action Proposed, Date by and
Responsible Officer/ Person.

the length of the main building and is part boarded. Various items were located in the loft namely;

- 35 flat screen monitors
- Pupil records
- Tables
- Christmas decorations
- Personal possessions

Subsequent to this visit PCC's Fire Safety Advisor has performed an independent risk assessment over the access and use of this loft. The following main issues have been raised and are noted below, however a separate 'Fire Risk Assessment' report will be issued.

- The access route to the loft is unprotected and dangerous.
- The stacking of document filed boxes on wooden joists (i.e. not on the boarded area) is also dangerous.

One action required:

Due to the height and the loading issues the School must ensure that the loft is subject to an inspection from a structural engineer to determine, if allowed the storage capabilities of this space. unauthorised or unlawful processing of personal data and against accidental loss or destruction of, or damage to, personal data.'

Breach of the DPA can result in a maximum £500,000 fine from the Information commissioner's office for a serious breach by a public body

remove the items at a cost of £2.00 per screen. Plus a licence fee of £20. A second verbal quote had been obtained from another source who had quoted £3.50 per screen.

Action point:

Short term:

- The to raise purchase order for removal of items.
- The will remove pupil records and relocate in a secure cupboard in annex.
- The will remove tables and will find suitable alternative accommodation.
- The Christmas decorations will be removed.
- All personal items will be removed as soon as possible.
- The will be asked to secure the classroom window
- The loft area will cease to be used for storage.

Medium term:

- o The aware of the concerns over the access route to the loft and will be obtaining quotes to make safe.
- The boxes of documents will be removed and suitable alternative accommodation found.
- The will liaise with the relevant department at PCC

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| Signed head teacher Date | | | | |