

Value for Money Statement (June 2019)

For Oak Hill College (part of the Kingham Hill Trust)

Introduction

Oak Hill College is a theological college based in North London which aims to help prepare students from Anglican and Independent churches for Christian ministry in today's world. The College has around 120 students, and offers courses from Level 4 (CertHE) to Level 7 (Postgraduate) on the Framework for Higher Education Qualifications. It is an Enhanced Validated Partner of Middlesex University, with whom it has been in collaborative partnership since 1992, and its programmes offer vocational training for a range of ministries in Anglican and Independent churches in the UK and overseas, with a particular focus on pastoral leadership, youth and children's ministry and cross-cultural work.

The purpose of this Statement is to provide information for students (both current and prospective) about the extent to which we at Oak Hill believe that we are providing value for money. The College and the Kingham Hill Trust (the registered charity which operates Oak Hill) are both committed to offering value for money as part of our stewardship of the resources that the Lord has provided for us by various means, and the following Value for Money Statement should be read with that commitment in mind.

Value for Money Statement

The Kingham Hill Trust is confident that Oak Hill College is providing value for money, as demonstrated by:

- High quality teaching: as reflected in both internal and national surveys and as endorsed by the House of Bishops' Inspection Team during the College's most recent Periodic External Review.¹
- High student satisfaction rates, for example:
 - ✓ In their Student Evaluation Forms for 2017-18, 96% of respondents agreed that their programme had contributed to their personal development, while 98% agreed that what they had learned would benefit their future ministries;
 - ✓ In the National Student Survey, overall satisfaction stood at 86% (compared with a sector average of 83%),² while outcomes in relation to teaching quality, learning opportunities, marking and assessment, student support and learning resources were all above sector averages;

¹ See: <https://www.churchofengland.org/more/diocesan-resources/ministry/training-institutions>

² See: <https://unistats.ac.uk/subjects/satisfaction/10010227FT-BATheol/ReturnTo/Search>

- High employment rates: in the College's most recent DLHE return, 100% of leaving students were in employment or further study within six months of finishing their course, and 95% were in a professional or managerial role³, which reflects the nature and quality of the vocational training delivered, providing leaders for a range of ministries in Anglican and Independent churches;
- Ongoing strong relationships with former students as employers, placement supervisors and ministers in sending churches;
- Formative opportunities including placements, missions and engagement with the local community (for example through schools work and local sports clubs);
- A strong College community with support for families including the spouses' teaching days, access to classes through auditing lectures, crèche, etc.;
- Research, publications and public speaking activity on the part of College teaching staff, along with a planned programme of study leave and support for two Research Fellows: all of this contributes to research-led teaching and learning activity in the classroom as well as serving the wider Church;
- Learning support, including study skills sessions, support for students with specific learning difficulties and disabilities, and the recording of lectures for student use;
- Significant investment in pastoral support (including the appointment of a Director of Pastoral Care in 2018) to ensure a commitment to students' physical, emotional, mental and spiritual development;
- A specialist Library providing theological and specialist support for learning and research;
- Good facilities with substantial investment in buildings: over £3m invested in the last 4 years;
- The College's location within the M25, affording excellent access to Central London and to a wide range of placement churches in rural, urban and inner city settings;
- A stunning 60-acre campus, that provides the space students need in order to study, debate, reflect, pray and grow in love for Christ in the fellowship of others.

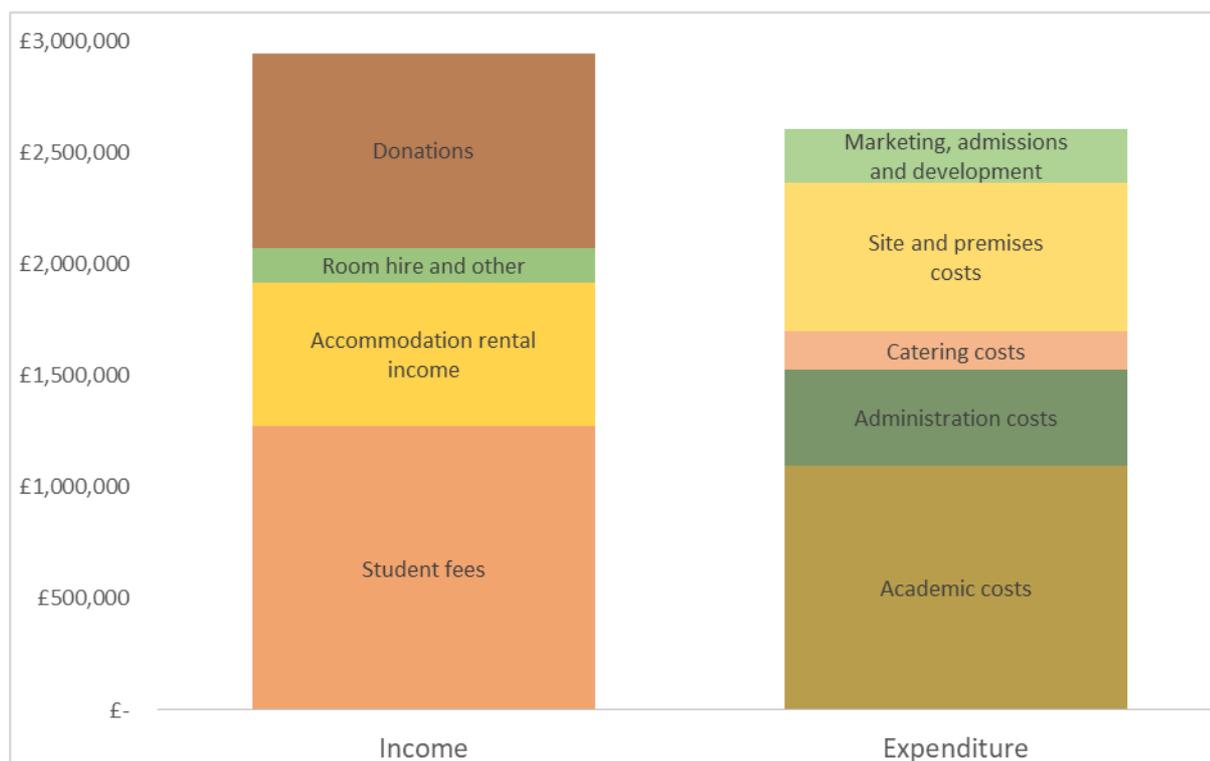
When Oak Hill College first opened in 1932, its mission was ground-breaking. According to the Trust's Foundation Declaration, the aim of the college was "training men and women (of any age) for ordination or other ministry in the Church of England or other Protestant denominations who were without adequate means of paying the expenses of their training."⁴ This was bold and counter-cultural at the time, because it made it possible for students to enter theological training regardless of class, social connections, or financial resources. It marked a departure from the class-based approach to ministry which prevailed in much of the church at the time.

In the almost 90 years since that time, we have remained committed to helping students to resource the training they need for gospel ministry, by minimising any increases in student fees. The cost of study is frequently greater than our students are able to pay or raise by themselves. That is why Oak Hill continues to be so well supported, as we seek to make good the shortfall between what students can afford and the cost of their high-quality training. Each year, generous donations for both revenue support and bursaries ensure that the quality of the educational and formational experience can be maintained and continually enhanced.

³ See: <https://unistats.ac.uk/subjects/employment/10010227FT-BATheol/ReturnTo/Search>

⁴ Foundation Declaration of Trust for the Kingham Hill Trust (16 December 1912): Clause 20, pp.9-10

In the financial year 2017-18, income of £2.9m was received (£1,270k from student fees, £800k from rental/hire income and £874k from donations) to cover expenditure of £2.6m (£1,100k academic costs, £670k site and premises costs, £430k administration costs, £240k marketing, admissions and development and £170k catering costs). In addition, there was depreciation of capital projects, thus giving an operational deficit of £250k which was funded by drawdowns of capital from the investment portfolio, which is maintained and enhanced in order to provide on-going capital requirements from time to time.



Through the work of the College Council (many of whose members have extensive business and financial experience), the Kingham Hill Trust ensures that its charitable objectives are being fulfilled and that its assets are being managed effectively. Strenuous efforts are made to keep costs under control, particularly the amount we spend on administration and support services.

A significant part of expenditure goes towards maintaining the buildings on our campus, including many properties that are rented to students at below commercial rates. This commitment to providing a high-quality environment for students and staff to thrive is key, by maintaining the existing infrastructure and investing in new facilities.

Economy (spending less), efficiency (spending well) and effectiveness (spending wisely) are all continually being monitored by the Leadership Team and, due to the small scale of operations, spending can be monitored in significant detail and granularity, enabling ongoing review. Systems for measuring key performance indicators are in operation, which include: performance against financial targets, compliance with external requirements, maintenance of academic standards, provision of high-quality

teaching, delivery of an excellent admissions service, and an effective programme of staff development activity.

Annual accounts provide useful information about our performance to all of our stakeholders. They are confirmed by external auditors (Kingston Smith LLP) as being a true and fair view of our financial performance, including monitoring the systems controls and accountability of the financial and operational controls within the organisation.

Visit the Kingham Hill Trust full financial statements:

<https://beta.charitycommission.gov.uk/charity-details/?subid=0®id=1076618>