

# Value for Money Statement

**Academy Trust name: Henlow Church of England Academy**

**Academy Trust Company Number: 07996350**

**Year ended 31 August 2013**

I accept that as accounting officer of Henlow Church of England Academy Trust, I am responsible and accountable for ensuring that the Academy Trust delivers good value in the use of public resources. I am aware of the guide to academy value for money statements published by the Education Funding Agency and understand that value for money refers to the educational and wider societal outcomes achieved in return for the taxpayer resources received.

I set out below how I have ensured that the Academy Trust's use of its resources has provided good value for money during the academic year.

The Governing Body is accountable for the way in which the resources are allocated to meet the objectives set out in the School's Development Plan. Governors will endeavour to secure the best possible outcome for pupils, in the most efficient and effective way, at a reasonable cost.

I can confirm that to the best of my intentions, the budget for Henlow Church of England Academy has been set to provide best possible educational and wider societal outcomes for our pupils through the economic, efficient and effective use of its resources in the Trust's charge.

This has been achieved in the following ways:

## **Improving Educational Results**

- The standards achieved by our pupils are very good, and pupils of all abilities achieve and succeed.
- The Key Stage 2 SATs, taken at the end of Year 6, show that our children achieve well above the national average and the Department for Education's Floor Standard.
- Year 8 pupils, like those in our neighbouring schools, all take a Key Stage 3 test in English, Maths and Science. These national tests were designed for pupils in Year 9. In 2012 and 2013, as in previous years, our Year 8 pupils achieved excellent results in these tests, significantly outperforming Year 9 pupils nationally in the percentage of pupils achieving a Level 5 or above.
- Analysis of the progress made by pupils during their four years at the Academy clearly indicates outstanding progress in Maths and very good progress in English. The expected progress for a child over their 4 years at the Academy is 12 points - one point per term. The average points achieved by Year 8 leavers is 12.8 in English and 16.3 in Mathematics.
- We are also very proud that our pupils continue to succeed academically when they transfer to the Upper Schools. Once again in 2012 and 2013, as in many previous years, former Henlow pupils achieve a very high proportion of success at Samuel Whitbread Academy in their GCSE, AS and A-Level results.

## **Targeted Improvement**

- Funds are allocated to deploy staff to provide value for money in terms of quality of teaching, quality of learning, teacher / student ratio and curriculum management. The Trust has carried out a staffing structure review and implemented a new model of leadership, with the aim of improving leadership and management of the Academy. The teaching staff and curriculum support staff of the Academy are deployed efficiently and effectively to support the needs of children and to ensure sustained development and improvement of an already outstanding curriculum on offer.
- An integral part of the Academy's school development cycle is an established programme of continuing professional development to provide all staff with the support and development identified as a result of the annual performance management/appraisal process. The Academy is committed to supporting staff in delivering high quality teaching to improve the quality of learning of its pupils.
- The Academy has invested in the improvement and development of its ICT infrastructure to promote delivery of ICT throughout the curriculum, whilst at the same time enhancing parental engagement and communication, and improving its business processes.
- The Academy continually focuses on facilities improvement/development as part of its strategic review to ensure that it provides the best possible learning environment for its pupils. Funds are invested in maintaining the site to ensure compliance with Health and Safety and welfare of its staff, pupils and visitors.

## **Focus on individual pupils**

- The range of strategies that we have used at the Academy to support individual pupils include:
  - One to One Tuition
  - Peer Tutoring
  - Additional text books/resources
  - Recruitment of additional Teaching Assistants
  - Resources invested in the creating of a Nurture Room together with staffing
  - Introduction of Social Skills Groups, recruitment of School Counsellor and buy in to the services of a Pastoral Support Officer
  - Reading Clubs/Homework Clubs introduced
  - Gifted and Talented programme with extra-curricular opportunities, and opportunities to attend the Children's University programme for Gifted and Talented pupils.

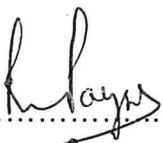
## **Collaboration**

- The Academy has entered into a collaborative partnership with Bedfordshire East Schools Trust (BEST), as an associate member. The aims and objectives of the Trust are broadly to advance students' education, improve the education of other members of the community and introduce further benefits to the local community.
- The Academy's pupils have benefitted physically, socially and educationally through joint participation in sporting activities, drama productions, musical ensembles, choir and community based projects, such as Archaeological digs.
- The Business Manager works collaboratively with other local colleagues to share good practice and ensure the best possible cost is being achieved to continually assist with driving up standards whilst maintaining quality of service.



## Financial Governance and Oversight

- Governors and School Managers will continue to develop procedures for assessing need and obtaining goods and services which provide value for money in terms of economy, efficiency and effectiveness. Procedures already in place include:
  - maintaining and operating an effective system of internal control to safeguard all the resources delegated, granted or otherwise entrusted to the Trust and ensure they are used cost effectively;
  - assurance as is reasonably possible (not absolute assurance) that assets are safeguarded, transactions are properly authorised and recorded and that material errors or irregularities are either prevented or can be detected promptly;
  - regular reporting of financial and other performance monitoring data to the Accounting Officer and Board of Governors, with ample opportunity for challenge in respect of cost and effectiveness of spending proposals with due regard to value for money;
  - Governors and School Managers have made comparisons with other similar schools using the benchmarking toolkit as appropriate. Further, it is required of suppliers to compete on cost and quality of service, eg. ensuring bought in services such as Grounds Maintenance, Cleaning Contract, are consulted with regards to on-going provision of their service to the Trust, and ensuring they remain competitive and reliable.

Signed: ..... 

Name: ..... R. G. PAYNE

Academy Trust Accounting Officer

Date: ..... 5/11/2013