

# Value for Money Statement

**Organisation name: HEARTWOOD CHURCH OF ENGLAND ACADEMY TRUST**

**Company number: 8627834**

**Year ended 31 August 2014**

I accept that as accounting officer of HEARTWOOD 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.

## Improving educational outcomes

We have directed resources where they are most needed and have been most effective in ensuring the best educational outcomes for the pupils across the four schools. A joint Learning Improvement plan was drawn up, evaluated termly, which focused on priorities in the following areas:

Improve standards and progress in maths, with a particular focus on level 3 at the end of key stage 1 and level 5a / 6 at the end of Key Stage 2.

Outcomes:

- Good subject leadership in maths measured against OFSTED criteria ensures teaching of maths is at least good across the schools.
- Improved progress and attainment in maths particularly for more able children at levels 3, 5 and 6 is sustained.
- A higher proportion of children make good progress in maths in every cohort in all schools.

Improve standards and progress in writing with a particular focus on reducing the gap between boys and girls attainment

Outcomes:

- Outcome of writing review across all four schools results in improved practice with an increase in outstanding teaching and children making accelerated progress.
- Reading, writing and communication is taught effectively throughout the curriculum (skills taught and applied – speaking and listening punctuation, spelling, sentence structure, grammar).
- A higher proportion of children reach age related expectation and make good progress in writing in every cohort in all schools, with the gap between girls and boys writing reducing

Improve the effectiveness of middle leaders particularly in their monitoring role and reporting roles for core subjects

Outcomes:

- Effective subject leadership in literacy and mathematics enables close monitoring of provision and pupil progress, with timely interventions to enable better pupil progress.
- Middle leaders are enabled to write clear action plans which have a positive impact on pupil progress.
- Middle leaders are able to support other staff in raising the proportion of good and outstanding teaching across Heartwood Academy (all good with an increasing proportion of outstanding teaching in every school).
- Increased proportion of children make good progress in the core subjects in all schools

Successful joint staff training took place throughout the year, led by in house expertise and sourced external providers, thus reducing costs through economies of scale, as well as ensuring everyone was working to the same goals.

Middle leaders worked across schools, planning, observing and evaluating the teaching and learning, as did head teachers who supported the monitoring of performance of staff and ensuring relevant action was taken to address any weaknesses.

Pupil Premium grants were targeted to the children entitled to additional funds in order to improve their educational outcomes, socially and academically.

Sports grants were used to purchase external providers across the MAT, ensuring economy of scale, as well as

good quality provision.

#### Financial governance and monitoring

Finances across the multi academy trust and each individual school academy are monitored regularly by the head teachers, admin staff and the finance governors. We appointed accountants and a school business manager to oversee the budgets and produce detailed reports. Our selected finance package enables us to produce management reports and detailed itemised reports on income and expenditure, assisting us in ensuring that spending is within budget.

Regular Board meetings and Resources committee meetings took place, at which members asked relevant questions to the school business manager and accountants. The minutes and reports record details clearly.

#### Better purchasing

The school business manager took steps to ensure value for money when purchasing through the following examples:

- Economies of scale – negotiating contracts / services on behalf of the MAT rather than individual schools.
- Tendering process for major purchases and contracts
- Working in liaison with Birmingham Diocese

#### Better Income generation

Income for the MAT has been generated in a number of ways including the following examples:

- Sourcing available income through grants for refurbishments of school kitchens in order to provide universal free school meals for all infants
- Grant award towards the appointment of a school business manager, which releases head teachers to focus on standards and progress and educational outcomes for pupils in the MAT
- Hiring charges to external providers for educational and community purposes

#### Managing risks

The MAT has taken steps to ensure a safe, secure and compliant environment with effective governance, which is important in underpinning educational attainment.

Actions taken to manage risk include :

- Purchase of appropriate insurance
- Use of professional services for all matters relating to staffing, salaries, pensions, contracts, HR support.
- Compliance with regard to health and safety, safeguarding - policies, procedures.
- Compliance with statutory policies.
- Compliance with matters related to finance - we have a financial procedures document

#### Lessons learned

We recognise the need to continue to monitor expenditure and review service contracts annually to ensure fitness for purpose.

Signed Ann Parsons

Name Ann Parsons

Multi Academy Trust Accounting Officer

Date 23.12.14

**Name:** Mrs Ann Parsons

**Academy Trust Accounting Officer**

**Date:** 28 Dec 2014