

**Value for Money Statement**  
**Writhlington Academy Trust**  
**Academy trust company number: 07728482**  
**Year ended 31 August 2013**

I accept that as accounting officer of Writhlington 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.

**Raising attainment**

- The Trust ensures that resources are directed where they are most needed and are aligned with the School Development Plan. Resources have been targeted to key areas such as Literacy and Numeracy.
- Resources are targeted to best support the various educational needs of our individual students. We monitor students closely and ensure that the support they receive is relevant and the best fit.
- We have carefully analysed our Raiseonline data to ensure that Pupil Premium funds are specifically targeted to close the gap for these students.
- The Trust has focused on continual improvement in the quality of teaching and has implemented a system of academic department reviews, lessons observations and support from external leading practitioners. The school has invested in software which will allow staff to record and review their own practice.
- The school has developed a range of targeted interventions for student identified by our robust monitoring systems. Performance in Maths was better than expected. For a full list of results see our website [www.wsbe.org.uk](http://www.wsbe.org.uk)

**Robust governance and oversight of Academy finances**

- There are robust systems of financial control in place which have been regularly reviewed and tested by an independent Responsible Officer who has reported on a quarterly basis to the board. Generally systems have been found to be of high quality, but where minor improvements have been recommended, these have been implemented.
- There is appropriate delegation of authority and best practice segregation of duties.

- The Central Support Committee (with delegated responsibility for financial control) receives a full report on progress against budget at each meeting with a report on all variances.
- Monthly monitoring reports, including outturn forecasts, are produced and reviewed by the Headteacher and Leadership team and remedial action taken where issues are identified.
- Five year projections and cash flow forecasts are regularly reviewed by the Leadership Team and trustees and strategic plans put in place based on these projections.
- Budget holders receive monthly reports and advice from finance staff to ensure they remain within budget.
- Regular benchmarking is undertaken with similar institutions to identify areas for improvement.
- Insurance levels are reviewed annually.

#### **Value for money and efficient and effective use of resources:**

- The Trust has ensured that contracts have been reviewed and appraised/renegotiated to ensure that they deliver the best solution (not always the lowest price).
- Trustees challenge proposals, examining them for effectiveness and efficiency.
- A formal tender process has been used to with all large purchases but (as per the Finance Policy) time is not wasted on investigating or tendering for minor areas/purchases where limited improvement can be achieved.
- The Trust has sought economies of scale in purchase and has explored collaboration with other schools. The Trust has provided services IT, premises, administration and catering services to other organisations in a manner which serves to obtain best value for the Trust.

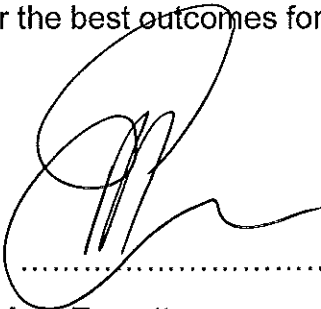
#### **Maximising income generation**

- Opportunities have been taken to generate additional revenue streams; these include the provision of services to other organisations (catering, IT, administration, site services and SLE services).
- The Trust has an investment policy and has moved balances to a high interest charity account to ensure maximum returns on balances which are not currently required.

This is reported to and monitored by the trustees. The Trustees review the reserve levels and match these to long term strategic objectives.

**Future**

The Trustees are carefully reviewing staffing costs and the design of the curriculum in the light of national changes (curriculum and funding) to ensure that resources are spent wisely for the best outcomes for our students.



**Signed:** .....

**Name:** Mark Everett

**Academy Trust Accounting Officer**

**Date:** 19 December 2013