

# Value for Money Statement

**Organisation name: ST CHAD'S ACADEMIES TRUST**

**Company number: 8526973**

**Year ended 31 August 2014**

I accept that as accounting officer of ST CHAD'S ACADEMIES 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.

## Key Objectives

The overarching principles adopted by St Chad's Academies Trust are that:-

- All schools can improve to become good and outstanding.
- All pupils have the right to the best education that can be provided so that standards continually rise resulting in all children and young people achieving their best.
- All children and young people in our care have an entitlement to spiritual care and guidance.
- All staff and governors should have access to support for their spiritual welfare.
- All staff should have access to a well-planned and strong career progression route. This professional development will be tailored to meet the needs of the school and the individual teacher, resulting in a professional body of the highest quality.
- Presence, partnership and participation of schools and their leaders will bring about significant improvement and help to develop system leaders of the future.

We have endeavoured to ensure that schools joining the Trust are well supported and have access to high quality resources and advice.

Our support includes:

- The operation of a Raising Achievement Board to provide challenge and support.
- Educational consultancy
- Finance and risk management
- Support for governance
- CPD
- Estate management

## Outcomes

Where a school has had significant issues prior to converting to academy status, it takes time to address those issues before there is a significant impact on data relating to children's attainment, achievement and progress.

Birchills CE Community Primary Academy was in the Trust for the whole year 2013/14. St Matthew's CE Primary Academy joined in November 2013 and Havergal CE Primary Academy joined in July 2014.

In each of these academies, strategies have been in place to drive school improvement and to address underlying weaknesses in leadership, teaching and learning.

New Principals were appointed to Birchills and St Matthew's in April 2014 and to Havergal in September 2014.

Each academy showed improvements in several areas, and the Trust had identified those areas where improvement is required, with appropriate strategies and support in place to address these issues. Reviews took place in each academy in the Autumn Term 2014, and a set of objectives was identified. Principals and Chairs

attended a Raising Achievement Board in December 2014 in order to review progress, agree targets and agree appropriate support. Performance management of principals is linked to this process.

We have removed inadequate teaching within the scope and time available, and this remains a focus for the Trust.

We have robust measurement processes in place and are confident that each academy will demonstrate improvement in the coming months. We note that there is still much to be done, and we have strategies in place to achieve our objective of all our academies becoming Good and then Outstanding at both Ofsted and Church (denominational) inspections.

#### Procurement

Following conversions, we have generally continued pre-existing service level agreements in place at the schools for the sake of continuity. These agreements will be assessed and categorised in order from highest to lowest value to ensure areas of high spend are identified and addressed quickly.

We will review all Trust wide service level agreements and contracts regularly to ensure value for money is always a priority. This will be dependent upon the length of the contract but annually where possible.

At Trust level we have implemented procurement of an insurance provider and obtained value for money with joint HR and Payroll services, both of which were identified as significant areas of spend. Through its own SLAs, the Trust is able to provide access to a number of other services including financial support and school improvement.

Procurement priorities for the future have been identified and are listed below:

- Energy provider
- Legal advice
- Audit services
- Office/Educational supplies

**Name:** Mr Jonathan Hill  
**Academy Trust Accounting Officer**

**Date:** 29 Jan 2015