

# Value for Money Statement

The County High School, Leftwich

Academy Trust company number 8126953

Year ended 31<sup>st</sup> August 2013

I accept that as accounting officer of The County High School, Leftwich I am responsible and accountable for ensuring that the academy 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 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 results:

This is demonstrated by the results for 2012/2013 academic year being the best ever results for The County High School, Leftwich. This continues the upward trend since 2006:-

2006 51%	2010 64%
2007 53%	2011 75%
2008 59%	2012 79%
2009 60%	2013 80% (including English and Mathematics) (92% 5+A*-C)

## Income generation

The County High School, Leftwich continues to maximise income generation through the hire of the Multi Use Games Area, the Gym and the Recording Studio.

## Governance of the Academy's Finances

As Accounting Officer, I have responsibility for reviewing the effectiveness of the system of internal control. During the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> August 2013, this review has been informed by:

- the work of a Responsible Officer
- the Audit Committee;
- external audit;
- the Financial Management and Governance self-assessment process

The Responsible Officer is a suitably qualified external person who reviews key financial procedures and systems and presents a report on a termly basis to the Finance and Premises Committee.

The Academy Trust's system of internal control is based on a framework of regular management information and administrative procedures, including the segregation of duties and a system of delegation and accountability. In particular it includes:

- comprehensive budgeting and monitoring systems with an annual budget and periodic reports which are reviewed and agreed by the Governing Body;
- regular reviews by the Finance and Premises' Committee of reports which indicate financial performance against the forecasts and of major purchase plans, capital works and expenditure programmes;
- setting targets to measure financial and other performance;
- clearly defined purchasing guidelines;
- delegation of authority and segregation of duties;
- Identification and management of risks.

### **Ensuring the Trust demonstrates good value for money and efficient use of resources**

All services and contracts are appraised and negotiated on a timely basis and where appropriate i.e. economies of scale or reduced cost 3 year contracts have been entered into.

The County High School, Leftwich operates a '3 quote policy' for services to be undertaken which are above £10,000 and below the tender limit. This ensures that 'best value' is derived at, taking into account suitability, efficiency, time and cost.

The Senior Leadership Team applies the same principles when making informed decisions on:-

- The allocation of resources to best support the curriculum
- The allocation of resources to best support the improvement of standards

### **Reviewing controls and managing risks**

The Academy has appointed an Audit Committee to receive the termly reports from The Responsible Officer and to receive the Letter of Comment from the external auditors, Watkinson Black. Both items are in turn reported back to the Finance and Premises Committee.

Julie Brandreth

The County High School, Leftwich Academy Trust Accounting Officer

Dated 25<sup>th</sup> November 2013