

Value for Money Statement

WITTON PARK ACADEMY TRUST

Academy trust company number: 8941338

Year ended 31 August 2014

I accept that as accounting officer of **WITTON PARK 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 have 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 ended 2014.

The Directors of Witton Park Academy Trust are accountable for the way in which the Academy resources are allocated to meet the objectives set out in the Academies development plans. Directors need to secure the best possible outcome for pupils in the most efficient and effective way at a reasonable cost. This will lead to continuous improvement in the School's achievements and services.

Value for money has been secured in regard to raising the educational outcomes for all of our students and pupil premium money has been targeted effectively to ensure that students in this category are making more than expected progress especially in regard to English and Maths. Progress overall is good with 82% making 3 levels of progress in English and 81% in Maths. Significantly the numbers of students who have made more than expected progress in English and Maths is now better than the national average and there are no gaps in performance between different groups of students.

Reserve levels have been maintained in order to safeguard the Academy against the demands of PFI costs in the future and avoid potential deficits. The staffing structure throughout the Academy has been reviewed in all areas to strategically focus teaching and support in the most effective way to raise the attainment of all students and to develop a positive culture of learning with high expectations. The proportion of students achieving 5A*-C has improved consistently with 66% of students achieving this target in 2014.

The use of funds to provide additional support in the form of Leading Practitioners in subject areas, additional Teaching Assistants and the reduction in class sizes as well as the provision of weekend revision sessions and after school support has resulted in an

effective and strong level of support particularly for EAL, SEN and FSM students that has resulted in closing the gap of these students who are now achieving expected progress particularly in English and Mathematics. Value added in English and Mathematics has been above national expectations, with the proportion of students achieving A*-C in Maths improving from 48% to 82% over the last 4 years and the proportion of students achieving A*-C in English improving from 52% to 73% over the last 4 years.

Pupil Premium monies have been employed not only in the provision of additional support and teaching but in the provision of breakfast clubs for all students to ensure that they have adequate nutrition to support their learning, engagement and overall behaviour. In addition the catering service has been further enhanced by the provision of free salad and free vegetables to students to improve the nutritional content of the meals provided and to encourage healthy choice.

The Trust has been instrumental in collaborating with a variety of organisations to share expertise and delivery of good practice whilst reducing costs. The Academy works extensively with the Education Improvement Partnership which employs a collaborative, partnership approach to improving education and delivering strategies that lead to measurable improvements in standards and outcomes for all young people. In addition as Accounting Officer I have encouraged the support and joint practice development with local schools and trusts within the area, for example notably St Bedes, St Wilfrid's and Darwen Vale which has driven school improvement. Improved behaviour and attendance of students within our Academy has also contributed significantly to improved student outcomes our attendance is 96.4%, well above the national average and there has been no permanent exclusions.

The trust's system of financial governance includes strong oversight by the trustees and accounting officer. The Academy was incepted in May 2014 and since then extensive training has been provided in order that all Governors and Trustees are clear in their objectives and obtaining best value and value for money. The Scheme of Delegation has been reviewed and goods and services have been quoted for and best value principles applied. Where services have been disappointing since the inception of the Academy these have been discussed and where necessary challenged at Finance Committee and Full Governing Body and solutions and remedies put forward and applied.

The trust has taken the opportunity to work collaboratively with others to reduce and share administration and procurement costs in regard to obtaining service level agreements etc. The trust is currently working with Blackburn Central and Pleckgate High School, which has secured Halal accreditation for catering services and reduced the costs of the service level agreement for catering services overall.

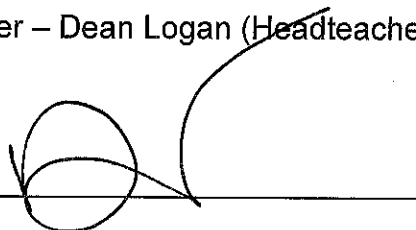
The trust has only been in existence for a short period which has meant that certain aspects of procurement have had to be secured quickly in order that the trust can operate, for example insurance. Due to the time line of movement from initially planning

to be part of a MAT to being a standalone Academy it was not possible to obtain several quotations for insurance but it was of utmost necessity to employ an insurance company to provide the cover required. The Local Authority reviewed the cover and policy in order to ensure that it met the Academy requirements. However in the next year the insurance provider will be reviewed and quotations obtained as per the Scheme of Delegation.

Best value has been reviewed and has infused the overall approach to school management and evaluation. As Accounting Officer I have strived to ensure that the Academy is using its resources effectively to meet the needs of all of our students to ensure that they reach their true potential. I have particularly reviewed staffing; the use of resources; the quality and impact of teaching and learning; and reviewed the curriculum model. In KS2 to KS4 Transition tables, in most subjects show that progress is equal or better than national standards for a similar cohort. I have worked closely with the Directors and Trustees, staff, parents and students to increase challenge within lessons especially for higher ability students and improve the support and expertise of staff thereby securing our shared vision of 'Succeeding Together' .

Accounting Officer – Dean Logan (Headteacher)

Signed: _____

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a large, stylized 'D' followed by a long horizontal stroke that extends to the right and then loops back up and over the 'D'.

Dated: _____

10/12/14