

Value for Money Statement [DRAFT]

Organisation name: Viewley Hill Academy Trust

Company number: 8803858

Year ended 31 August 2014

I accept that as accounting officer of Viewley Hill 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.

1. Improving Educational Outcomes

Achievement has rapidly improved over the last three years to ensure that school now at least meets and in some measures now exceeds national floor targets.

There has been continued improvement in the phonics screening check. Outcomes in 2014 were 82% for Y1 and 100% for Y2. Both outcomes were above national and the school increases were also greater than national increases. The consistent upward trend reflects the impact of high quality CPD, differentiated daily provision and rigorous monitoring.

The Academy is pleased with end of Key Stage 2 outcomes in 2014 – we achieved our first L6, in maths. In reading, writing and maths, increases in attainment were greater than national increases demonstrating the impact of school's commitment to raising standards.

L4 attainment in writing and maths has increased to above national average. Reading at L4, whilst still below national average, has increased by 9% exceeding the national increase of 3%. CRWM L4 increased by 10% from 2013, again greater than the national increase of 4%. Expected progress is above national averages in reading, writing and maths and again our gains here are greater than national. Better than expected progress has continued to increase from 2013 with at least one third of the cohort achieving good progress.

2. Financial Governance and oversight of Academy's finances

The Academy benefits from the provision of a suitably qualified Responsible Officer (RO). The RO provides a robust programme of internal audit carried out over three full on-site days. This process interrogates internal systems and controls which ensure the appropriate management of financial procedures in the academy meet the criteria stated in the Academy's Financial Handbook. The outcomes of this audit have been reviewed by the accounting officer and the Finance and Resources Governor sub-committee and the Academy is found to be compliant in all areas.

Further to this, the Academy has completed year end accounts through an external audit carried out over four full on-site days and additional remote assessment. All systems and controls have again been found to be compliant. Any large expenditure items are presented to the Board of Governors who decide the appropriateness of the spending suggested. They recently consulted on a significant upgrade to classroom ceiling, insulation and lighting and three relevant quotes were obtained. Governors based their decision on cost, quality and long term savings over time. The decision to install LED lights was an initial increased expenditure however, cost savings are projected to be significant over time.

The Academy's Governors approve the budget each year and also receive and approve the annual accounts and the External Auditors Management Report. Governors regularly review expenditure against budget and receive a termly report from the Academy Business Manager. Minutes reflect robust challenge and questions regarding expenditure and income.

3. Better Purchasing

Viewley Hill Academy operates a best value strategy for purchasing provision. Contracts and Service Level Agreements are reviewed on a yearly basis to ensure that a competitive pricing structure is in place. Quality of

service received is also continually reviewed and providers are challenged to deliver the highest standards. This identifies any areas requiring improvement or change with competitive comparisons carried out with local suppliers. For example, the Academy has recently changed cyclic maintenance, refuse collection and telecom providers based on the above decision making process.

An approved insurance broker is used for transparency and best value purposes to ensure the most appropriate insurance cover for the academy.

The Academy is in the process of applying for a grant to improve the condition of the school roof. We are constantly investigating any other possible areas of income streams. This year the Academy received a grant from a community agency which covered two thirds of the cost of school wide WiFi installation.

The Academy works closely with other academies in The Discovery Alliance to source strong procurement. This year we have collaborated on joint CPD costs and our insurance provider. Both of these measures have created significant savings to individual academies. Currently there is work to collaborate on better purchasing for energy.

Name: Mrs Helen Malbon
Academy Trust Accounting Officer

Date: 11 Dec 2014