

Value for Money Statement

Academy Trust name: St Chad's Academies Trust.

Academy trust company number: 08526973

Year ended 31 August 2016

I accept that as accounting officer of the 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

- Financial management support
- HR support
- 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, St Matthew's CE Primary Academy, Havergal CE Primary Academy, St John's CE Primary Academy and All Saints National Academy were in the Trust for the whole year 2015/16. St Peter's CE Primary Academy joined in July 2016.

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

In pursuit of effective and efficient use of resource, a system leadership model will be developed with the creation of an Executive Leadership role across St Matthew's CE Primary Academy and Havergal CE Primary Academy.

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 during the Autumn term 2015, and a set of objectives was identified. Principals and Chairs attended Raising Achievement Board meetings throughout the year in order to review progress, agree targets and agree appropriate support. Performance management of Principals is linked to this process.

Inadequate teaching has been removed within the scope and time available, and the quality of teaching 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 a continuing cycle of improvement, and we have strategies in place to achieve our objective of all our academies becoming Good and then Outstanding at both Ofsted and Church (SIAMS) inspections.

Procurement

All schools converting to the Trust are subject to robust project management due diligence processes. We assess all contracts and service level agreements to ensure value for money of all continuing services, and work with schools to ensure areas of high spend are identified and addressed quickly.

We regularly review all Trust wide service level agreements and contracts regularly to ensure value for money is always a priority. This is an annual process, but will also be dependent upon the length of the contract.

At Trust level we identified high levels of spend in finance and project management consultancy, and addressed this by removing external providers and employing and training dedicated staff. Through its own SLAs, the Trust is able to provide access to a number of other services including school improvement.

We have identified preferred suppliers as follows;

- Risk and insurance
- Photocopier supply to Trust academies
- School data tracking system
- Supply staffing for academies
- Finance system and budgeting software

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

- Energy provider
- Legal advice
- Audit services
- HR and payroll services

Procurement exercises will be run in conjunction with Wulfrun Academies Trust to enhance economies of scale and value for money.

Signed: Sue Wedgwood

Academy Accounting Officer

Date: 31 August 2016