

# Value for Money Statement

**Academy trust name: Bursley Academy**

**Academy trust company number: 07972070**

**Year ended 31 August 2014**

I accept that as accounting officer of **Bursley Academy** 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.

## **Improving educational outcomes**

By maintaining a stable staffing structure, the academy has been able to continue offering outstanding educational provision for the pupils in the school.

Enrichment classes during and after school contribute to the very high standards achieved in KS2 this year. These classes either take the form of lessons being taught in neighbouring high schools or done in house.

The pupil premium continues to make positive impact. Out of the 39 compulsory aged children affected, 30 children achieved higher grades than the average for their year group. Of the 9 children who were slightly under the average points progress for their year group, all but 1 achieved the national average of 3 points progress per year. The 1 child, who failed to reach this target, achieved an average 2.5 points progress. This proves that the academy is offering effective support for individual pupils and that national expectations are exceeded.

KS2 SAT's data for 13/14 continues to improve with an increase in performance in both literacy and numeracy with regard to Level 5's and Level 6's. Out of a cohort of 44 children, only 1 special needs child failed to reach the national level.

## **Targeted Improvement**

Staffing structure is employed to support the new curriculum. Sufficient funding is being allocated so that the Academy is able to continue to employ 14 teachers.

Improved capacity to teach engineering through our racing car programme linked with the educational provider Greenpower has led to national recognition as the best team in the country and has kindled an interest in the children to develop their knowledge further.

Links with Staffordshire University through STEM (Staffordshire Technology Engineering and Mathematics) continues to inspire the children to become inquisitive about physics and engineering.

The school has invested heavily in EYFS (Early Years Foundation Stage) as data indicates that an excellent start to school life has a major impact on results at KS1 and KS2. Staff training, materials, external resources and facilities, have all been addressed throughout the year.

### **Focus on individual pupils**

The strategic use of Teaching Assistants, targeting support for Literacy & Numeracy throughout the school continues to effectively support both low and high attainers.

### **Collaboration**

We continue to collaborate with educational providers such as achieving local high schools to ensure that good practice is shared and high standards are achieved.

### **New Initiatives**

The Trust has made funds available to support various new initiatives such as The Learning Book (EYFS tracking system), Move4Words (improving concentration programme), Literacy Projects (authors working in school) and enhanced safeguarding with an Entry Sign System (electronic signing in).

### **Quantifying Improvements**

Overall SAT's results for the academic year showed improvement on 12/13 with 5 children attaining L6 in SPAG compared with none in the previous year, and 23 children attaining L5 in maths an improvement of almost 20% on the previous year.

Attendance has improved on 12/13 figures from 95.6% to 96.8%.

There were no exclusions during the academic year.

### **Financial governance**

During the academic year, the review has been informed by:

- The work of VAST Accountants through monthly monitoring.
- The work of Baker Tilly as external auditor.
- The work of the Finance Committee who have responsibility for the development and maintenance of the internal control framework.
- Termly Responsible Officer visits.

The academy's system of internal financial control is based on a framework of regular management information and administrative procedures. In particular it includes:

- Comprehensive budgeting and monitoring systems reported regularly to the Trustees.
- Regular reviews by the Finance Committee and trustees who challenge financial performance.
- Clearly defined purchasing guidelines and control.
- Identification of management of risks.

### **Better purchasing**

Close monitoring of all services and contracts ensure that the Trust obtains the best mix of quality and effectiveness. Positive, longstanding relationships with suppliers and contractors ensures that we continue to obtain best value for services supplied.

**Options appraisal**

The Trustees and staff apply the principles of best value and procedures within the Scheme of Delegation when making decisions about:

- The allocation of resources to best promote the academies aims and values.
- The targeting of resources to improve standards and provisions.
- The best use of resources to support the educational needs of all pupils.

**Economies of Scale**

The Trust takes opportunities to work collaboratively with others when occasions arise for example hiring of facilities for the Christmas carol concert.

**Reviewing controls and managing risks**

VAST Accountants continue with monthly scrutiny of accounts and use of financial system and Baker Tilly remain as our external auditors.

Insurance levels are reviewed annually and used cost effectively to manage risks.

The trustees review the reserve levels of the academy annually. This review encompasses the nature of income and expenditure streams, the need to match income with commitments and the nature of reserves.

The academy has undertaken work to develop and embed Risk Management and Business Continuity Planning.

**Lessons learned**

Financial scrutiny and accountability is far more stringent in academies than in mainstream schools. Value for money is rigorously pursued and firmly embedded in the culture of the academy.

Success is based on maintaining the ethos of the academy, common values and teamwork.

**Signed:** .....

**Name: Stephen Cooper**

**Academy Trust Accounting Officer**

**Date:** .....