

Value for Money Statement
Academy trust company number: 08132137
Year ended 31 August 2014

I accept that as accounting officer of [Grasmere 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.

Context.

This has been the second year as an Academy for Grasmere and it has been challenging in many ways however our good systems and processes and the support of North Tyneside Academy Foundation and the Local Authority have enabled us to maintain value for money. At the start of the year the Accounting Officer was Helen Jones, Chief Executive of the Academy Foundation. However after a secondment arrangement in November 2013 this role was taken over by Kerry Lilico, Interim Head Teacher of Grasmere Academy who has now taken on the substantive role.

As a result of very poor SAT results in 2013 the Academy has had 3 visits from the DfE and 2 from the EFA in the last Academic Year. An Ofsted inspection in April 2014, also placed the Academy into the Serious Weaknesses Category. However, significant improvements have been achieved resulting in the Academy's best End of Year data in July 2014.

Improving Educational Standards.

The Academy has secured value for money in improving educational standards in the following ways:

1. Securing a secondment arrangement for 2 years for an Interim Headteacher in order to continue to drive standards and provide stability for the future of the Academy.
2. Securing an effective partnership with a local Outstanding school in North Tyneside to ensure standards are raised in

teaching and learning. This is a cost effective model and one which the DfE recognises as making a difference, for example Teaching which was graded as inadequate in the Academy in May 2013, currently stands at 83% good or better.

3. A Head Teacher Mentor has been brokered to support with the pressures of monitoring HMI visits, to ensure that the school is 'inspection ready' at the earliest date.

4. Funding of nurture groups have helped improve behaviour and safety in the Academy. In May 2013 this was graded as needing Improvement. The Academy now evaluates this as good. A considerable amount of time is now spent supporting our most vulnerable pupils, to remove any barriers to learning.

4. Changes to the building has created intervention spaces to work with the large number of young people with SEN (50%) and individual needs. An investment into resources, intervention and CPD programmes has enabled the Academy to provide high quality support for pupils, ensuring that progress for SEN children is maximized.

5. Membership of the North Tyneside Learning Trust has given the Academy access to funding in order to support the budget of a small school.

6. Membership of the North Tyneside Learning Trust has given the Academy the support of Maths and Phonics Lead teachers to work with staff and pupils to make significant improvements and address key Areas for Improvement, as identified by Ofsted.

Financial Governance and Oversight

The Academy has secured value for money in Financial Governance and Oversight in the following ways:

1. Membership of the North Tyneside Learning Trust has secured the services of the principal finance officer at TyneMet FE College who has acted as responsible officer for the Academy providing specialist accounting expertise not currently available in Academy staff.

2. A new Clerk to Governors has been recruited, with substantial experience. This support has been effective in ensuring that the

Academy is meeting all its requirements.

Purchasing

The Academy has secured value for money in Purchasing in the following ways:

1. Paying through Schools Forum into a shared post of Procurement Advisor who has worked to secure competitive quotes for a range of services including Insurance and audit. This has been done through the CPC arrangements.

Reviewing controls and managing risks.

The Academy has secured value for money in Reviewing Controls and Managing Risks in the following ways:

1. The Academy has agreed a risk register which covers the full range of the Academy's system and procedures. This is updated termly. The risk register has been used to identify the work programme for the responsible officer in 2013-4.

Lessons Learnt.

The Academy has learnt that

1. The school to school support model has been effective in securing improvements in teaching and pupils learning and the secondment of an Interim Head Teacher for a 2 year period has stabilized the future development of the Academy.

Signed:

Name:

Academy Trust Accounting Officer

Date: