

Value for Money Statement

Academy trust name: Gartree High School

Academy trust company number:08023322

Year ended 31 August 2014

I accept that as accounting officer of Gartree High School 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 2013-14.

1.Improving Provision

- Standards in KS2 SATs have improved, particularly in reading and grammar, punctuation and spelling. The progress made in Maths from KS1 – KS2 has also improved significantly.
- Pupil progress KS2 – KS3 remains very high with year on year improvements in most areas.
- The Academy continues to set challenging targets for all curriculum areas and individual pupils using national benchmarks and data.
- Initiatives to continually improve provision have been made including enhancing CPD for teachers, improving information system and implementing a house system across all year groups.
- A comprehensive tracking system and process is in place to monitor pupil progress.
- We have improved our pupil premium provision through tracking, academic intervention and pastoral support.
- Staffing levels were adjusted as every year to meet the needs of the curriculum plan. This meant the restructuring of our learning support team and implementation of a new admin restructure.

2. Robust Finance Governance and Oversight

Gartree High School has a Finance and Infrastructure Committee that is responsible for determining the academy's financial priorities linking this to the long term vision, the School Improvement Plan and directions given by the Full Governing Body.

The Responsible Officer has made scheduled checks across a range of financial and accounting procedures.

The academy has had a successful external audit with no issues of concern raised.

Items for discussion and action by the committee include:

- To approve the annual budget and any changes thereto
- To ensure compliance with the Academies Financial Handbook
- To receive budget monitoring reports
- To receive budget forecasts
- To monitor Health and Safety requirements and compliance
- To ensure that the academy is a going concern and will remain viable for the foreseeable future

3. **Better procurement**

- All services and contracts are regularly reviewed and renegotiated as necessary
- The academy makes use of approved buying consortiums such as ESPO
- The financial regulations set out the circumstances where 2 or more quotes should be received. These regulations are reviewed regularly.
- The academy endeavours to achieve value for money when purchasing equipment and services.
- The academy benchmarks with other similar schools and also with information on the DfE website

4. **Reviewing controls and managing risks**

- The Head Teacher (Accounting Officer) and the Business Manager meet weekly
- The Business Manager is part of the Senior Leadership Team which meets weekly.
- The Finance and Infrastructure committee meet termly.
- The academy has implemented a strong system of internal control which evolves if new issues arise
- The academy maintains a risk register which is reviewed annually. High risk items are reported to the Finance and Infrastructure Committee and measures put in place
- The academy is a member of the Local Authority insurance users group which encourages risk reduction with regular information sessions and financial assistance where appropriate

5. **Learning from experience**

- The Business Manager attends the regular High School Bursar meetings to share good practice.
- The academy constantly reviews how effective its spending is in achieving its short and long term development plans. Changes are made if strategies are not having the desired outcomes.
- Locally the academy works with the Learning South Leicestershire Partnership.
- The academy is increasingly working in partnership with the Oadby Learning Partnership (Teaching Alliance), SSAT as a leading edge school and the PIXL partnership..

We strive to ensure that the academy is using its resources effectively to meet the needs of the pupils.

Signed:

Name:

Academy Accounting Officer

Date: