

Value for Money Statement

Academy trust name: Alsager Multi Academy Trust

Academy trust company number: 8597784

Year ending: 31st August 2014

I accept that as accounting officer for Alsager Multi 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.

Improving Educational Outcomes

The school has developed sophisticated processes for tracking pupil progress and has therefore been able to deploy intervention plans where needed. There has been a particular focus on key groups including Pupil Premium, SEND and boys. This is evidenced by Pupil Premium 5 A*-C (including English and Maths) rising by 9% to 52%, this being well above national and regional figures.

- **Targeted Improvements**

The school has reviewed the staffing structure during the year to enable staff to be deployed strategically within key areas such as Nurture Group (identified pupils extracted from Humanities to develop English and Maths for a limited period) and increased staffing in English and Maths.

- **Focus on individual pupils**

During the year staff training has focused in part on data and differentiation; increased understanding of data has led to clear identification of students' needs, quality first teaching and improved differentiated practise.

- **Collaboration**

The development of the Chimney House Alliance has allowed much greater collaboration of information and much improved training opportunities for staff at all levels. This includes SLEs going to other establishments to deliver training and the Alliance has also bought in external trainers for collaborative events where costs were shared. This is in addition to developing further our collaboration within the Alsager Community Trust.

- **New Initiatives**

The extension of the Nurture group to Year 8 pupils was funded within budget by adapting the timetable.

- **Quantifying Improvements**

Pupil attendance over the year increased by 0.9% to 95.8%

70% of pupils gained 5+ A*-C GCSE with English and Maths

- ✓ Expected progress in English was 85% (12% increase)
- ✓ Above expected progress in English was 46% (a rise of 4%)
- ✓ Expected progress in Maths 76%
- ✓ Above expected progress in Maths 49% (12% increase)

82% of pupils gained 5 A*-C GCSE grades

98% of grades at A level were A*-E

72% of grades at A level were A*-C

Financial Governance and Oversight

Financial governance is robust within the academy and action has been taken to implement a strong internal control system.

A panel of governors, including the accounting officer and several directors/trustees, attended regular committee meetings. Financial reports showing variances against budget were presented at the meetings for scrutiny, challenge and discussion. Where necessary, appropriate action was approved by the committee. All new or amended financial policies were also approved by this committee.

Better Purchasing

- **Fitness for purpose**

The academy has clear internal procedures for purchasing and procurement; these procedures are stepped dependant on the value of the products or services. These

procedures were adhered to through internal control. Agreements to purchase large or novel items were agreed with Governors in advance.

- **Benchmarking**

The academy looks to benchmark a wide range of products, services and other finance related issues on a regular basis. Working in collaboration with the Chimney House Alliance we have benchmarked several areas including staffing structures, payroll cost, catering, ground maintenance and reprographics in the year, which has helped the Governing body make informed decisions.

- **Options Appraisal**

In accordance with our Manual of Internal Financial Procedures all available options are appraised before purchases are made as necessary and appropriate. In 2013-14 this has included bulk stationery purchasing across the school.

- **Economies of scale**

The school works collaboratively with both the Chimney House Alliance and the Alsager Community Trust to find opportunities to both procure supplies and services and share administrative burden. An example of this is sharing policies and procedures.

Maximising Income Generation

In the last year we have been successful in securing a bid for £250,500 from the Education Funding Agency for capital works. These works took the form of replacement windows and doors to the Parker building; this work is now complete and has made a huge impact on the teaching and learning within that building.

Reviewing Controls and Managing Risks

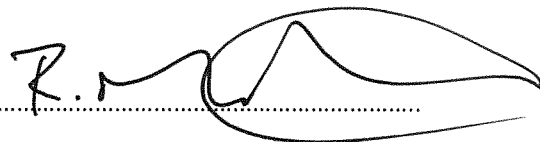
The school has in place robust internal controls that have been monitored during the year by its internal auditors; they report to the Finance Committee. The school's external auditors have also produced their year end management report which has been considered by the Finance and Audit Committee and an action plan has been developed.

Professional advice has been sought when required from the school's Human Resource Consultants, Lawyers and insurance company and appropriate action taken.

Lessons Learned

The Trust recognises the need for a coherent strategy on the allocation of Pupil Premium funding and has a strategy to explore quantifying the amount spent on Pupil Premium activities.

Signed

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'R.M.', written over a dotted line. The signature is stylized and extends to the right, ending in a long, sweeping tail.

Richard Middlebrook

Academy Trust Accounting Officer

26th November 2014