

# Value for Money Statement

**Organisation name: LWS Academy Trust**

**Company number: 8915981**

**Year ended 31 August 2014**

I accept that as accounting officer of LWS 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.

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I set out below how I have ensured that the academy trusts use of its resources has provided good value for money during the academic year (conversion from April 1st 2014).

Improving Educational Results

Targeting resources in line with the SDIP (School Development Improvement Plan) priorities including:-

- English strategy revised and evaluated against student progression and GCSE entry
- Pathways provision continued for KS4 students including college, work experience and alternative provision to help the prevention of NEETS post 16
- Professional development for Maths teacher and NQT teachers to enable networking and effective teaching.
- Continuing to develop and assess the database tracking system to evaluate attendance, progress and IEP targets of individual students.
- Support staff trained in Catch Up reading to help individual students improve their literacy along with Therapeutic story writing and Social skills sessions
- Support staff and home tutors deployed to improve attendance by delivering home tuition to students not attending the Academy
- Summer school provided for new Year 7 intake to enable a successful transition to secondary school.
- The Academy gained its best GCSE results to date with 71% of students achieving 5 or more GCSE grades including English and Maths
- DFE data measures improved for the 3rd year in a row
- Rigorous less
- Recruitment of a Senior Teaching Learning Leader for the academy conversion – until 31st July 2014.
- Senior Leadership Team has representatives from all areas of the school – Teaching Learning, Student Support and Administration.
- LWS Academy has been appointed to the Strategic board for Pioneer Teaching Alliance in Gosport and Fareham. Enabling us to engage further with our primary colleagues.
- Headteacher and Chair of Governors appointed as representatives of another Academies Governing body to drive up standards and bridge the gap between special and mainstream schools

## Financial Governance and Oversight

Our governance arrangements include regular monitoring by the Board of Directors and its committees including the Staffing, Pay and Finance sub committee. They receive regular financial reports and ask relevant questions as evidenced in the minutes. An Accounting policy, Anti Fraud and Corruption policy, Write offs and Assets policy and Authorising Signatures Protocol Policy have been agreed and signed by the Board of Directors on conversion to become an Academy. An appointment of Clifford Fry and Co have been appointed to audit the academies accounts and support the academy throughout the year.

## Better Purchasing

Examples of steps taken to ensure value for money when purchasing include:-

- Exploring purchases on-line and direct through suppliers to provide the best value
- Buying back into HCC SLA's to provide maintenance of the academy to drive down cost by being part of a group of schools.
- Gaining 3 quotes for larger purchases to obtain best value.
- Obtaining the catering SLA as an academy has driven down cost per student
- The Business and Administration Manager has negotiated costs for SLA's, insurance and procurement which have resulted in value for money
- Working with a partner academy has given us better rates for buying academy supplies including ink cartridges and stationary
- ICT department have worked to get best value for hardware and software

## Better Income generated

- Outreach and BESD Assessment matrix currently provide a consultancy service for 4 Secondary school partners outlined through an SLA agreement.
- Community booking continue to increase and a lettings supervisor has been recruited to maximise lettings.
- LWS Database has been licensed by other school which has generated income through an SLA.
- Partnership working with a local Education Psychologist has led the academy to offer her services to other schools at a cost.
- Agreement with the Local Authority to ensure top up payments are made on a monthly basis to maximise cash flow.

## Reviewing Controls and Managing Risk

As we are in our infancy stage of becoming an Academy we have been managing the budget very carefully and the Business and Administration Leader, along with the Headteacher have been regularly looking at the bank balance and budget. Staff have been given budgets for their department and controls are in place to monitor closely their spend in the form of a spreadsheet. LWS has also worked closely with the Finance Team through their business support to ensure correct controls are in place and have regular meetings to discuss the budget. This has ensured that spending is within budget and forward plans are agreed and have been implemented.

Actions taken to manage risk include the purchase of the appropriate levels of insurance cover following consultation with the academies broker. An SLA for HR is in place in case the academy needs professional advice for staff. The Academy also has an SLA for Health and Safety and the Site Manager works closely with them to produce Risk Assessments of Classrooms and the other necessary documents needed to comply with the HSA.

## Future Objectives

The Academy is looking to open a Primary Provision for students with Social, Mental and Emotional health with the support of the local authority to increase local capacity for students with these needs. It is also looking to expand on the Outreach consultancy provision to more schools.

The Academy is looking to expand on CPD for staff with closer working with a mainstream Academy to share

expertise and good practice.

**Name:** Mr Stuart Parker-Tyreman  
**Academy Trust Accounting Officer**

**Date:** 15 Dec 2014