

# Value for Money Statement

**Academy trust name: The Ashley School Academy Trust**

**Academy trust company number: 7729412**

**Year ended 31 August 2014**

I accept that as accounting officer of **The Ashley School 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:

The Ashley School Academy Trust is nationally recognised as 'Outstanding' (Ofsted April 2014).

- *We apply value for money principles (economy, efficiency and effectiveness) and good practice when making purchasing decisions through the seeking of competitive quotations for bespoke work and use of EU compliant purchasing consortiums for day to day purchases.*
- *We allocate resources to best promote the aims and values of the school.*
- *We target resources to best improve standards and the quality of provision.*
- *We use resources to best support the various educational needs of all pupils.*
- *Our annual budget is fully aligned with achievement of the goals and aims within the School development plan.*
- *Monthly budget monitoring is undertaken by the Strategic Business Manager and termly reports are taken to Governors where they are considered and challenged.*
- *We have restructured and streamlined our Senior Leadership Team.*
- *We have used Pupil Premium funding to enhance our Pupil and Family Support Team to raise attendance, reduce exclusions and promote greater attendance and attainment for our pupils.*

- *Personalising curriculum for gifted and talented KS4 pupils within existing resources / staff.*
- *As an 'Outstanding' school we are sharing good practice:*
  - *We lead the East Coast Hub for Challenge Partners.*
  - *We share good practice within the Lowestoft Secondary Collaboration.*
  - *We are an SSAT Outstanding School.*
  - *We share good practice within the North Lowestoft Primary Cluster.*
  - *We are members of the Suffolk Learning Partnership.*
  - *We work collaboratively with other Suffolk Special Schools on service provision and particularly in support of the delivery through our Outreach Partnership.*
- *We continue to pool resources to raise attainment levels. For the academic year 2013-2014 progress / attainments are:*
  - *Outstanding School Inspection (Ofsted - April 2014).*
  - *Outstanding Ofsted Inspection of Residential Provision with Outstanding outcomes for pupils (Ofsted – February 2014).*
  - *100% of pupils achieved at least one Entry Level Qualification.*
  - *100% of pupils achieved both Entry level English and Maths.*
  - *100% of pupils achieved 5 Entry Level passes.*
  - *100% of pupil achieved at least one level 1 or equivalent qualification (D-G).*
  - *Pupil Progress Model (TASDA+) 90% made expected progress in English (KS2 to KS4) and 50% made better than expected progress with 11% making exceptional progress.*
  - *Pupil progress Model (TASDA+) 80% made expected progress in Maths (KS2 to KS4) and 60% made better than expected progress with 21% making exceptional progress.*
  - *Pupils have had a wide range of accreditation including OCR, City and Guilds, National Sports Leaders, CIEH and Trinity Guildhall.*
  - *There is no discernible difference in the performance of vulnerable groups (FSM, LAC, ASD) as evidenced by pupil progress data.*
  - *Pupils have taken part in the centenary celebrations for Benjamin Britten, including performing at Snape as part of the regional celebration of schools music with a small 'Jazz Band'.*

- *Continued success in regional sporting events including Norwich City Powerleague and East Anglia Cross Country.*
  - *Music and Drama productions from pupils in KS2 and KS3 were highly successful, including pantomime and 50's and 60's Rock 'n Roll Show*
  - *Introduction of the 'Arts Award' Discover into KS2.*
  - *Teaching Leader programme undertaken by Senior and Middle Leadership Team.*
  - *Successful Application to be a 'Challenge Partner' Hub school.*
  - *All groups make outstanding progress.*
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- *There is a robust system of effective financial controls which are regularly externally reviewed and subsequently monitored by the Governing Body and amended / adjusted in accordance with recommendation and / or legislation.*
  - *We operate an effective tendering process enabling best value for money to be obtained.*
  - *We have looked at the more effective use of IT resources and are investing in staff development to make greater use of SIMS through investment and staff training.*
  - *We are further developing our financial monitoring system to enhance and inform further our understanding of costs.*
  - *TAS is nationally recognised as 'Outstanding'. (Ofsted, April 2014)*
  - *We have looked at benchmarking outcomes with Stormont House, Belmont and Sherborne Fields outstanding special schools.*
  - *We work in an atmosphere which promotes a culture of reflect and review.*
  - *Governors regularly review the controls and new risks identified throughout the year and put into place contingencies and timescales when needed.*
  - *An area of weakness, which we are seeking to address, is income generation through greater sharing of our resources within the local community.*

**Signed:**



**Name:** Sally Garrett

**The Ashley School Academy Trust - Accounting Officer**

**Date:** 10<sup>th</sup> December 2014