

Value for Money Statement

Academy trust name: The Pochin School

Academy trust company number: 8204075

Twelve months ended 31 August 2014

I accept that as accounting officer of **The Pochin 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.

1 Targeted improvement

Over the last year the academy has managed changes in staffing to ensure that highly skilled teachers and support staff have been able to work together to achieve the academy's improvement priorities.

2 Establish consistently good or outstanding progress across the curriculum and across the Academy.

- Establish a culture of professional learning and development with the expectation that all lessons are at least good and increasingly outstanding with a clear focus on learning.
- Effective use of assessment to support all learning.
- Achievement is often outstanding and at least good in English, Maths and Science in KS1 and 2 and in all areas in EYFS-(CVA increases)

3 Develop an outstanding curriculum which fulfils the Academy's core values.

- Ofsted criteria for an outstanding curriculum are met.
- Develop use of ICT and digital technology to enhance learning

4 Ensure the sustainable development of The Pochin School

- Continued outstanding leadership at all levels.
- Deliver high quality asset management and development

5 Focus on individual pupils

The academy uses available funds to ensure that *all pupils* receive a personalised curriculum and teaching or additional intervention tailored to their individual needs. Because the academy has succeeded in providing a broad and rich curriculum which includes a wide range of opportunity and learning experiences, planned in response to careful assessment, pupils of all abilities, talents and backgrounds have achieved well.

Provision has included:

- Small group and 1-1 tuition for pupils with additional needs or who need to catch up
- Leadership opportunities for older pupils
- Regular feedback on progress and next steps on learning for all pupils

- Music tuition
- Specialist sports coaching
- Extra support in the classroom for pupils who need it

6. Collaboration:

The school converted to academy status on 1 October 2012 as one of ten forming an umbrella trust of converting schools in the local area. The ten formed the Syston & Thurmaston Education Partnership (STEP). The Headteacher is a member of the Management Board and Chair of the School Business Managers' Working Group.

The Collaborative Trust's objects are specifically restricted to the following: to advance for the public benefit education in the United Kingdom by enabling the joint carrying on and development of the Schools; promoting co-operation between them and school improvement in respect of them ensuring that the distinctive ethos of each School of which it enables the joint carrying on or development is upheld.

7. Quantifying improvements:

In order to allow for additional release time for teachers to provide high quality feedback and mentoring for their pupils and to participate regularly in collaborative, classroom-based professional development (Lesson Study), the academy has deployed the services of a specialist sports teacher. This provision has served the dual purpose of improving the Sports curriculum *and* facilitating the achievement of two key school development priorities.

Academy assessment data and tracking shows that the targeted use of pupil premium funding to support the progress of eligible pupils has ensured that they have made good progress

Financial governance and oversight:

As accounting officer I have responsibility for reviewing the effectiveness of the system of internal control. The system of financial control is based on a framework of regular management information and administrative procedures including the segregation of duties and a system of delegation and accountability. During the year my view has been informed by:

- LCC internal Audit – 2 day visit full audit – in the role of Responsible Officer, looking at key financial policies, systems and procedures and producing a detailed Audit report.
- The work of the external auditor and accountant, MHA MacIntyre Hudson
- The work of the Finance and Audit committee which has responsibility for the development and maintenance of the internal control framework and the completion of the Audit Action Plan.

The Finance and Audit committee receives termly budget monitoring reports and supporting documentation to review the financial position, challenges decisions and is mindful of the need to balance expenditure against income to ensure the Academy trust remains a 'going concern'. The full governing body approves the budget each year and also receives and approves the Annual Accounts and the External Auditors' Management Report.

Better Purchasing

Procedures are in place for assessing need and obtaining goods and services which provide "Best Value" in terms of suitability, efficiency, fitness for purpose and cost savings. These measures include:

- Competitive tendering procedures for goods and services above £6,000 and £10,000 in the case of building works
- Appraisal and/or renegotiation of services and long term contracts to get the best mix of quality and effectiveness at the best price and continuing to meet the needs of the Academy
- Collaborative purchases with academies in STEP – economies of scale
- Use of known, reliable suppliers and group purchasing consortiums e.g. ESPO.

- The Academy intends to benchmark financial performance against other academy trusts to demonstrate that it provides good value for money.

Better Income generation

As Accounting Officer, I secured a successful bid for funding from the DFE for a new secure reception and administration block which was completed in December 2013. This year I have secured another successful bid for funding from the DFE for a new school kitchen and the refurbishment of the pupils' toilets and main school corridor.

Reviewing Controls and Managing Risk:

Monthly budget monitoring reports are produced and reviewed by the Headteacher and School Business Manager and any necessary remedial action is taken to address any significant variances that may have an impact on the budget out-turn. This activity is reported to the Finance and Audit committee on a termly basis.

Reviewing operation to maximise use of resources: Expenditure and income is reviewed regularly and adjustments are made based on outworking of the Academy Development Plan. Our continued curriculum development to support high pupil progress and achievement remains our top priority.

Name: Stephen Cotton

Academy Trust Accounting Officer