

# Value for Money Statement

**Organisation name: Ilkley Grammar School**

**Company number: 7663864**

**Year ended 31 August 2014**

I accept that as accounting officer of Ilkley Grammar 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.

## Principles

- Leadership and governors are given regular management accounts to track, and hold to account, the finances of the Academy. These reports are used to make informed decisions about the best use of the Academy funds. A schedule of delegation is reviewed and ratified each academic year by the Full Governing Body as is the risk register.
- In addition to External Auditors, Responsible Officer checks are undertaken on the Academy's finances and a report submitted to the Resources Committee.
- Strong internal controls are in place to ensure that all ordering is signed off by budget holders. These budget holders are tasked with running their department on a prudent budget whilst maintaining and improving the learning and teaching environment, student progress and exam results. Resources are shared where appropriate.
- The Governors, Business & Finance Director, Procurement Manager and all budget holders declare business interests annually by signing a pecuniary interests form.
- When significant expenditure is due to take place, for example on facilities or ICT, different options are appraised and competitive quotations (usually 3) sought to ensure that the best value for money is obtained and that the investment will generate the best possible results for the Academy.
- Configuration and deployment of staff are reviewed annually as part of the budget approval process.
- The Academy works with other Academies in the area to obtain best value for money in service contracts. Benchmarking is undertaken where appropriate.

## Specific Examples

- A new reprographics contract has been entered into resulting in a significant saving over a 3 year period.
- A review of the Associate Staff structure within the Academy is on-going. A Procurement and Contracts Manager is now in place to ensure that savings are made and that value is derived from every contract. This, and other changes, resulted in annualised savings to the academy of £75k in 2013/14.
- All cash surpluses are generating interest on a long term deposit account.
- Improved ICT equipment was purchased to enhance the learning and support structure of the Academy.
- Renovations were undertaken to enhance the learning and support environment of the Academy particularly in Food and Textiles.
- All flat roofing was replaced in school as it was passed its useful life, this will also ensure improved energy efficiency and therefore reduce costs going forward.

**Name: Ms Helen Williams**  
**Academy Trust Accounting Officer**

**Date: 19 Dec 2014**