

Value for Money Statement

Academy trust name: Whitley Academy

Academy trust company number: 07657794

Year ended 31 August 2014

I accept that as accounting officer of **Whitley Academy** 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.

ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE

The Academy has been in operation since July 2011 and has exceeded the forecast number of students. The total number of students in the year ended 31 August 2014 was 815 and this has increased to 825 for September 2014 due to an increased PAN and growing popularity. The Academy is full in two year groups and has a waiting list in operation with clear criteria established to prioritise applications.

<u>Grades</u>	<u>Percentage</u>
5 A*-C (including English & Maths)	53%
5 A*-G	98%
A level	100%

Professional Development

Whitley Academy believes that all staff should be involved in a continuing process of improvement. The academy is committed to fostering a positive ethos of continuous learning. Continuing Professional Development (CPD) is the means by which an academy is able to motivate and develop its staff community. This development takes place at a number of levels: individual, team, whole academy and through wider networks.

Whitley Academy is proud to be part of the Castle Phoenix Alliance of schools, led by Caludon Castle. We are especially proud of our recent accreditation as a teaching

school within the RSA family of academies. As such, there will be a continued commitment to the sharing of best practice and in showcasing the strengths across the teaching in the RSA family. These will take the form of 'Teach Meet' sessions where best practice can be disseminated and shared.

From September 2014, staff across the Academy are involved in an inclusive programme entitled 'PEG initiative'; PEG standing for Professional Exploration Groups. Each PEG is facilitated by an ambassador who is either a Middle Leader or an aspiring middle leader. The PEGs meet at 5 points across the year with the 6th session being a celebration event of progress and developments. Each member of each PEG will be encouraged to complete a 'reflective' DIP (Developmental Inquiry Project); this will be linked to Performance Management and will form a part of colleagues' T&L targets for 2014-15. This element of staff CPD will allow colleagues an opportunity to focus on 'whole school priority' from department LIPs and will bring together the excellent expertise of all Whitley staff. The success of the PEGs will drive forward whole school standards in Teaching & Learning.

In addition to the Teaching and Learning PEG sessions, there are 5 more calendared CPD opportunities throughout the year to focus on the latest changes to qualifications and initiatives, most specifically to all curriculum areas; i.e. content, examination & assessment practice. These slots will provide opportunities for staff to develop new ideas and to formalise curricula content; this time is to be directed by CLs with an opportunity for colleagues to feedback progress through their SLG link.

PLANS FOR FUTURE PERIODS

The Academy will continue to strive to provide outstanding education and improve the levels of performance of its pupils at all levels. The Academy will continue to aim to attract high quality teachers and support staff in order to deliver its objectives.

The Academy will continue to work with partner schools to improve the educational opportunities for students in the wider community.

Strategic priorities for the Academy for 2014/15 are as follows:

- S.1 Continue to raise attainment and strive for excellence at all key stages.
- S.2 Secure an inclusive community with all stakeholders.
- S.3 Continue to develop leadership throughout the Academy at all levels.
- S.4 Ensure outreach work benefits Whitley Academy and its partners through the N.L.E. and "RSA Family of Schools" agenda.
- S.5 Plan for possible expansion: student numbers and buildings.

Full details of our plans for the future are given in our Academy Development Plan, which is available on our website or from the Clerk to the Trustees.

Due to our success in working with other schools as an NLE and National Support School, we continue to work with Arrow Vale School and to support the Head and the Senior Leadership Team. Whitley has also been asked to support three Coventry Primary Schools to help lead school improvement and conversion to academy status. We continue to provide School Improvement work to Ipsley Middle School in Redditch.

FINANCIAL GOVERNANCE AND OVERSIGHT

The Academy has established a Governors Audit Committee which reviews the termly report of the Responsible Officer on the effectiveness of the internal financial controls operating at the Academy.

The members of the Governors Finance Sub-Committee receive monthly management accounts from the Director of Finance & Operations. The Finance Sub-Committee meets termly and extra meetings are regularly held to make decisions on financial matters which arise. The Governors are active in monitoring and determining decisions on financial policy.

The Academy has a purchasing policy to determine value for money which includes a scheme of delegation and procedures regarding obtaining several quotations for purchases over a certain value.

The Academy has made surpluses every year since conversion which are used to benefit students and improve facilities. Indeed during 2013/14 the Academy has completed two capital projects: to build two new classrooms which completed in December 2013; and following a successful funding bid used funds to complete new sports changing facilities. A further two new classrooms are due to be completed during 2014/15 following a further successful funding bid.

Signed: 

Name: Lorraine Allen

Academy Trust Accounting Officer

Date: 12/12/14