



## Value for Money Statement

**Academy trust name: Horbury Bridge St Johns Academy Trust**

**Academy trust company number: 07966187**

**Year ended 31 August 2014**

I accept that as accounting officer of **Horbury Bridge St Johns 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 2013/14.

Teaching and learning remain the key focus for the Academy in order to provide the best education for all its children. 'All pupils make good progress overall and some in Key Stage 2 make outstanding progress, particularly in writing and mathematics.' (Ofsted 2013).

Taking into account small cohort size, the end of Key Stage 2 results in 2014 continue to demonstrate above national average attainment and progress in all areas and for all groups of children. Attainment of pupils at higher levels is strong with 33% of pupils achieving Level 5 in Reading, Writing and Maths combined; 10% higher than the national average. Progress in reading and maths is particularly strong with 47% of pupils making more than expected (3 levels) progress compared to the national of 35%.

Investing in quality support staffing provided the flexibility and capacity for both HLTAs and teachers to provide targeted support and interventions for individuals and groups. Maintaining a Learning Mentor post impacted significantly in meeting the changing needs of the Academy's intake by providing the pastoral support necessary for identified children to access the curriculum. The academy continued to invest in bespoke staff training in order to enhance teaching and learning and in particular with regard to up to date technology such as tablets, to prepare for the introduction of the revised National Curriculum for Computing.

Targeted use of the Sports Premium funding introduced a new initiative, 'Passport to Sport' which significantly raised the profile of healthy lifestyles both in and out of school with 95% of children taking full part in the scheme. This also impacted on the number of children taking part in inter-school competitions with the Academy winning a number of trophies for the first time.

Upholding the Academy's key principles of collaboration and sharing of good practice, the Academy became a strategic partner in the newly designated Yorkshire Anglican Teaching School. The Academy continued to make a significant contribution to system leadership locally, through intensive LLE and SLE support for a number of vulnerable schools and enabled more teaching staff to develop their skills and experience in providing school to school support. LA and Diocesan monitoring of this support demonstrates the effectiveness of such collaboration. The non-class based Head of Teaching and Learning also provided weekly ITT sessions which not only shared high quality practice but also contributed to the Academy's income generation.

Income generation has also taken place through the provision of leadership, teaching and learning services to other schools, and the Local Authority. This had an impact on the Academy's ability to maintain staffing and resourcing levels within a balanced budget.

On conversion in April 2012, the Academy took the opportunity to review catering services and establish its own kitchen. It also extended its out of hours services by establishing an after school care provision. These have both been subsidised since this time to enable them to become fully established and remain affordable for parents. The purpose of these services has never been income generation but to enhance the range and quality of provision for families. Demand has continued to grow so that these are now approaching a break-even point.

Other services and contracts continue to be reviewed for quality, effectiveness and value. The Academy has continued to explore different financial strategies including making use of donated services from 'expert' parents and use of sponsorship.

Regular audits and reviews of procedures have strengthened the Academy's accounting procedures and informed decision making which have improved throughout the year. Financial information and decisions are shared by all the Governing Body in order to increase the level of financial awareness, skill and challenge offered by all members. Changes have been made to the Responsible Officer role so that the monitoring and checking of the operation of the financial management arrangements can be managed in a more timely and rigorous way. These systems continue to be refined and will allow the Academy to strengthen financial governance further as they become further embedded.

**Signed:** *J. Skinner*

**Name:** Mrs Janette Skinner

**Academy Trust Accounting Officer**

**Date:** 29<sup>th</sup> December 2014