

# Value for Money Statement

**Academy trust name: Wellington Academy**

**Academy trust company number: 6457394**

**Year ended 31 August 2013**

I accept that as accounting officer of The Wellington 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 Academy Trust is committed to:-**

## **1. Raising student attainment**

Key threshold measures were significantly below national average measure in summer 2013, whilst capped Average Points Scores were above national average. 37% 5A\*-C including English and maths placed the Academy below the DfE floor target, despite English Language and English Literature Attainment being significantly above national averages.

Progress in English and maths was below national average measures although the percentage of students making nationally expected progress in Maths (59%) was an 11% improvement from 2012. Attainment across subjects was variable, but was significantly above national average in some subjects. Positive headlines were: Key Stage 4 Value Added score 1013; 93% 5+ A\*-C; 85% 8+ A\*-C; 44% 5+A\*-B grades (almost double the figure in 2012); 99% of students achieved 5A\*-G.

Progress of SEN School Action Plus students had been a concern and the arrival of a new SENCo in April 2013 has allowed us to focus better on these students. FSM6 attainment and achievement has improved, however remains a focus. Service family students make above school average attainment and achievement.

In terms of capped Average Points Score, Value Added performance was significantly higher than estimated for; both boys and girls, lower ability students

and service students. VA performance was above average for FSM and middle ability pupils.

For Key Stage 5, the proportion of students making and exceeding expected progress at the end of Year 13 compares favourably with national figures and is pleasing given that in the previous year, two areas (AS and Applied AS) were below national average. There are pockets of outstanding performance and subjects which are underperforming; a more robust system of both ensuring course suitability and data collection/intervention was introduced this year. Girls outperformed boys in terms of APS per student and APS per entry, which is a deviation from the previous two years where there had been parity.

Significant investment was made during the 2012-13 year to appoint new staff into key academic areas and to significantly improve data tracking and analysis across the Academy. Although by summer 2013, these had yet to have a full impact, they will bear fruit much more significantly over the next academic year. In addition, new appointments to the Senior Leadership team helped strengthen performance management and systems around teaching and learning as well as pastoral support.

## **2. Robust governance and oversight of Academy Trust Finances**

The Academy benefits from the provision by the services of Moore Stephens who reports termly to the Responsible Officer on key financial policies, systems and procedures including the use of tenders, and presents reports on compliance to the Finance, Premises and Personnel Committee.

The Academy receives support throughout the year from its External Auditors on compliance and accounting practices.

The Finance, Premises and Personnel Committee receives termly monitoring reports and a report detailing compliance with the Scheme of Delegation. The Trustees approve the budget each year and are mindful of the need to balance expenditure against income to ensure the Academy Trust remains a 'going concern'. The Trust also receives and approves the Annual Accounts and the External Auditors Management Report.

## **3. Ensuring the operation of the Trust demonstrates good value for money and efficient and effective use of resources.**

The Academy regularly benchmarks financial performance against other academy trusts to demonstrate that the Trust provides good value for money.

Tender exercises are regularly undertaken to ensure that high value contracts are assessed against the marketplace on a regular basis to ensure that long term contracts (3-5 years) remain competitive.

For purchases above £5,000 but below the tender limit, 3 quotes are required.

#### **4. Maximising income generation**

The Academy explores every opportunity to generate income through hire of Academy facilities. Income is also generated from small grant applications which help to support the wider curriculum.

#### **5. Reviewing controls and managing risks**

The Academy reviews expenditure within each budget heading annually and makes adjustments based on the effectiveness of strategies introduced in previous years, curriculum offer and any new strategies identified in the Academy Development Plan.

The Academy maximises its resources by its environmental policies, these include energy consumption, recycling and reducing waste and procurement.

Signed: 

**Name:** Dr Mike Milner

**Academy Trust Accounting Officer**

**Date:** 31<sup>st</sup> December 2013