

Value for Money Statement

Academy trust name: WAKEFIELD DIOCESAN ACADEMIES TRUST

Academy trust company number: 07904096

Year ended 31 August 2014

I accept that as accounting officer of **the Wakefield Diocesan Academies 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.

This Trust now has responsibility for six sponsored academies. This is the second full year of operation for one academy; for four 2013/14 was the first full academic year within the Trust; and the sixth academy joined the Trust on 1 February 2014. We have moved from having interim executive boards or advisory boards to establishing local governing bodies at each of the six academies with consistent schemes of delegation and financial policies. This has also enabled us to utilise one Responsible Officer for the whole Trust.

Meetings between Chairs of each local governing body; heads; and business managers have taken place during the year. This has resulted in wider sharing of good practices within the Trust and the development of joint initiatives.

The main focus of our activities this year has been to consolidate and develop our delivery of educational improvements. We have done this by reviewing and changing some school improvement partners and by working with other schools and academies. Much of this work has involved the Trust in buying in support but we are now moving to a position that schools are wanting to buy, or exchange, support in specific curriculum areas.

Two of our academies joined in the Success for All programme during the 2013/14 academic year and improved outcomes for both pupils and staff are being delivered.

Key to the delivery of educational improvements has been our approach to developing our own staff and the recruitment of new staff. The professional development of staff, within an academy, within the Trust, or with other partners has taken place. Two of the academies within the Trust have taken part in the Teach First development programme and the Trust has adopted a more flexible approach to the recruitment of staff that has resulted in wider deployment of staff within the Trust.

The above, and many other actions, resulted in five out of six academies achieving their best key stage results to date.

Much development has taken place in other areas of the Trust. The Cleaning staff at one academy transferred to the Trust and those at another transferred on 31 December 2014. We have moved from having five IT Support suppliers to only having two; work was started on consolidating human resources support with one supplier, delivering discounted fees; and a similar development aimed at reducing the number of suppliers in payroll services was started. In addition progress has been made in moving towards one consolidated insurance policy for each academy and the Trust.

Although much progress has been made resulting in improved services being used by each academy, and in having a more consistent set of policies and standards throughout the Trust, the Trust works closely with each academy to help deliver solutions that are specific to that academy and that are consistent with the ethos of the sponsor. We believe this allows our academies appropriate levels of autonomy whilst still functioning as members of a Trust and contributing to its development.

Signed: 

Name: KEVIN JONES.....

Academy Trust Accounting Officer

Date: 30th December 2014.....