

# Value for Money Statement

**Academy trust name: St. Mary's Catholic Primary School**

**Academy trust company number: 08543115**

**Year ended 31 August 2014**

I accept that as accounting officer of **St. Mary's Catholic 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.

## **Improving Educational Results**

We have ensured that resources are directed where they are most needed and most effective in meeting educational requirements, for example by:

- Targeting resources in line with the Developing Excellence Plan (DEP) priorities as approved by the Board of Trustees.
- Targeted use of Pupil Premium funding in order that students have the opportunity to raise their individual levels of attainment which will in turn result in improved educational outcomes, narrowing the attainment gap between Pupil Premium and non-Pupil Premium pupils.
- Employment of teachers to support small groups and individual pupils where progress is less than expected.
- Implementation of Read - Write Inc Phonics and Literacy Intervention to raise standards in literacy throughout school. Including purchase of resources and staff training.
- Training for teacher and teaching assistant for implementation of numeracy intervention programmes.

- Development of assessment, tracking and monitoring procedures to ensure data is used effectively to plan for pupils and target interventions. Pupil progress meetings are used to monitor impact of interventions.

The effectiveness of these strategies can be seen in the improved student achievements:

Key Stage 2

<b>L4+</b>	<b>School Reading</b>	<b>LA Reading</b>	<b>National Reading</b>	<b>School Writing</b>	<b>LA Writing</b>	<b>National Writing</b>	<b>School Maths</b>	<b>LA Maths</b>	<b>National Maths</b>
<b>2013</b>	77	82.3	86.0	93	80.9	83.0	97	83.8	85.0
<b>2014</b>	90	86.1	88.7	90	82.4	85	94	86.6	86.1

### **Financial Governance and Oversight:**

Our governance arrangements include regular monitoring by the Board of Directors and its committees including the Resources Committee. The Resources Committee receive budget monitoring updates carried out by the Schools Finance Team in conjunction with the school staff responsible for finance. An Accountant has been co-opted on to the Resources Committee. The Responsible Officer from the school accountants Marriott, Gibbs, Rees, Wallis produces quarterly reports which are presented at the Resources Committee meetings.

### **Better Purchasing:**

Examples of steps taken to ensure value for money include:

- Joint employment of specialist PE teachers with primary schools in Learning Community using Sports Funding Grant.
- Joint buyback of services from Local Authority with primary schools in Learning Community.

### **Reviewing Controls and managing risks:**

The Resources Committee, Senior Leadership Team, School Business Manager and Schools Finance Officer have reviewed regular budget reports to ensure that spending is within budget and all projected plans will be within budget.

Actions taken to manage risk include the purchase of an appropriate level of insurance cover. Professional advice (e.g. HR/financial) has also been sought when required.

**Future Objectives:**

We recognise the need to work closely with other academies to benefit from economies of scale for purchasing and also to ensure the correct balance between staffing efficiencies and providing a balanced curriculum for our students.

**Signed:** .....

**Name:** ...Kathryn Thomas.....

**Academy Trust Accounting Officer**

**Date:** ...16.12.14.....