

## **Value for Money Statement**

**Multi-Academy Trust Name: The Silver Birch Academy Trust**

**Registered Number: 08107310**

**Period ended 31st August 2013**

I accept as accounting officer of the Silver Birch Academy Trust I am responsible and accountable for ensuring that the 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.

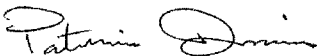
I set out below how I have ensured that the trust's use of its resources has provided good value for money during the academic year.

### **Improving educational results**

- Our curriculum ensures all pupils have the opportunity to raise their individual levels of attainment
- We regularly review the staffing structure to ensure staff are efficiently deployed and are appropriately qualified and experienced specialists and enthusiasts
- We provide targeted support for Pupils as appropriate, such as after school and weekend booster classes
- We focus on differing needs of every individual pupil. This is reflected in our FSM report.
- We have outstanding tracking systems to record all aspects of pupil data including progress through the academies and to ensure that interventions and support are targeted to achieve Value for Money.
- We have proved outstanding outcomes for our FSM pupils (90% of pupils attaining level 4, and pupils also attaining levels 5 & 6, significantly exceed national expectations. Pupil premium funding has been allocated to optimal effect, as illustrated by the detailed breakdown on the academies websites.
- Both Academies within the trust have a combined attainment level of 95% significantly exceeding national average, rated one of the highest achieving primary academies within the local authority.

### **Financial Performance**

- Financial oversight is good, with qualified members on the Finance & General Purpose Sub-Committee
- Management accounts are prepared and issued monthly, to enable regular monitoring to ensure Value for Money
- Regular budget proposals are provided, including 3/5 year projections, which enables short term and long term budget decisions to be made appropriately
- The Business Manager, Accounting office and Procurement Provider (ACS) have improved processes and policies to drive down costs through better procurement and negotiation in FY 13/14.
- All contracts for the FY13/14 and onwards are reviewed on an annual basis to ensure they are still fit for purpose and best value for our Academies, i.e. saving £13k on insurance renewal which saved money and provided same level of insurance cover.
- A review of contracts will be made for FY 13/14 to assess where in house support can provide better value for money.
- The Trust is looking into using its facilities for lettings more effectively to increase its Academies income generation.
- The school tendering policy for FY 13/14 ensures that tenders/quotes are obtained as appropriate to ensure Value for Money with all major projects, for example a tendering process was undertaken to appoint current caterers.
- For FY 13/14 Cash flow forecasts will be reviewed to identify and possibly invest surplus cash balances to maximise bank interest receivable

Signed: 

Patricia Davies

Accounting Officer

Date: 17/03/2014