

Value for Money Statement

Academy trust name: **St Louis Catholic Academy**

Academy trust company number: **08444133**.....

1 April 2013 to 31 August 2013

I accept that as accounting officer of **St Louis 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

- **Targeted improvement:** The trust kept its staffing structure under regularly under review, particularly during its rapid growth in recent years. The focus for staff deployment has been an improved curriculum and improving standards. Staff professional development is a strength of the school.
- **Focus on individual pupils:** The school has a rigorous programme of intervention groups in Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2 to ensure that individual children make good progress. Pupil Progress meetings held termly ensure that all children are being targeted to make good progress and are on track to meet their targets. A well trained team of LSAs supports individual children's specific needs.
- **Collaboration:** The school belongs to the Newmarket pyramid of schools and the Western Area pyramid of Catholic schools. Both pyramids engage work collaboratively around the curriculum in particular but also to achieve economies of scale around staff professional development and use of resources.
- **New initiatives:** The school has doubled in size over the last 7 years. Part of this growth has been due to a major initiative in Suffolk to re-organise from a 3-tier to a 2-tier system. This involved increasing the age range by two year groups at the top of the school. The significant development of buildings, staffing, curriculum and resources was successfully managed by the school whilst retaining a healthy budget throughout.
- **Quantifying improvements:** The attainment of pupils during the qualifying period was good. The school monitors pupil performance termly through target tracker and is consistently above local and national standards. National data shows performance under a 2-tier system is better than under the 3-tier system which was a target on the School Development Plan. This accounting period fell in the school's first six months of the accounting period. During this period it met all the requirements of the EFA and all audits confirmed practice as good or outstanding.

Financial governance and oversight

Better Purchasing:

- **Fitness for purpose:-** Purchasing systems are robust and follow the 3 quotes principle to ensure value for money. A recent audit judged purchasing to be outstanding. Suppliers are regularly reviewed and quotes are challenged. Systems for approval and the Governors delegation structure are fully in place.
- **Benchmarking:-** The school's spending is regularly benchmarked against other schools and this continuously shows relative value for money and good use of the school's finances in line with the overall aims of the organisation.
- **Options appraisal:** All contracts are reviewed annually to ensure that they are fit for purposes and providing value for money. Functions have been taken in-house where better value for money can be obtained and in these cases this has provided a better quality of service at a reduced cost. The school continues to review options in this way.

Better income generation: The school has recently started a breakfast and after school club – Treetops. It is in its early stages but the school intends that the club will provide an income stream for the school. The school employs a Business Manager who will be focussing on bid applications alongside the Headteacher.

Reviewing controls and managing risks: All financial systems in the school have a rigorous system of internal controls to ensure integrity in the operation. The Headteacher receives monthly budget reports which are fully scrutinised and the Finance Committee of the Governing Body receives termly reports which are discussed in detail. A termly cash flow report is produced for Governors. Insurance is used to manage financial risk and an annual review of insurance products ensures value for money in this respect too.

Signed: *Aeresa B. Selvey*

Name: *TERESA SELVEY*

Academy Trust Accounting Officer

Date: *19.12.2013*