

VALUE FOR MONEY STATEMENT

Academy Trust Name : Lighthouse Harmonize Education Trust
Academy Trust Company No : 07657235

Year Ending 31st August 2014

I accept that as Accounting Officer of Lighthouse Harmonize Education Trust – Harmonize 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.

The first full academic year for Harmonize Academy commenced on 2nd September 2013. The refurbishment of the building was complete and we took full control of the whole building. All of the teaching areas were set up with further curriculum areas added during the year for Design Technology, Food Technology and Health & Beauty. The term began with 31 students on roll which quickly increased to 48.

Best value principles were applied in assessing the current needs of the academy.

The following factors were considered in the decision making process when obtaining any goods and services:

- Increased space – we now had the whole building to utilise
- New kitchen and dining hall now fully functional
- Differing needs of our students

Review of areas identified for development in previous year

Catering Contract

A local 'not for profit' School Meals Company provided valuable support throughout the year. Food for Thought worked in partnership with us to provide a catering service for our students while ensuring compliance with food hygiene and health & safety legislation. Best value was obtained by using local produce and suppliers to provide nutritional meals This has proved successful and is to be reviewed as per recommendations from CPC (Crescent Purchasing Consortium) when student numbers increase.

Cleaning Contract

Harmonize Academy manage our own cleaning staff. This has provided value for money on the grounds of cost and suitability. However, as student numbers are set to increase to 72 students with effect from September 2014 this will need a fitness for purpose review at the start of next term

Current Year Review

Financial governance and oversight.

Our governance arrangements include regular monitoring by the Governing Body and its committees including the Finance and Resources Committee and Audit Committee. They receive regular reports and updates at the meetings which are held half termly.

Internal controls.

An internal financial procedures handbook is now in operation. It was reviewed and recommended by the Finance and Resources Committee for approval by the full Governing Body.

Managing risks.

There is a formal on-going process for identifying, evaluating and managing the academy trust's significant risks. The governors recognise that this process needs to be formalised so that review by the governing body can become more effective.

Purchasing.

Procedures are in place for assessing need when purchasing all goods and services. The CPC membership will help us achieve value for money and support us in the tendering process for larger contracts.

Curriculum

We offer a broad and balanced curriculum with English and Maths at its core with Performing and Urban Arts as its specialism. This underpins the academy's ethos of 'A Vision for Life'. We work closely with many organisations to support the curriculum in providing opportunity for students to raise their individual levels of attainment. Examples this year have been : – Archbishop of York Youth Trust – Young Leaders Award; LFC and Radio City- Btech in Business Studies; Liverpool Dyslexia Centre – Literacy Programme.

Enrichment Programme

This provides opportunities to experience a variety of activities in addition to the curriculum we offer our students. This including circus skills, dance, singing, music, music technology, Military school team building exercises, cultural trips, horse riding, P.E., football, table tennis, art, film club, catering and 1:1 English and Maths.

Future Objectives

Curriculum – We will continue to work with outside organisations and seek to increase our connections for the benefit of our students. This academic year has shown the importance of collaboration with other educational providers and experts in supporting the complex needs of our students.

Team Up – This is a cabinet based initiative that is scheduled to begin in September 2014. University students will be working with small numbers to improve English and Maths GCSE grades.

Enrichment Programme – we aim to constantly review and improve on providing new opportunities and experiences for our students. We value the importance of our enrichment programme in helping students to develop social skills and gain confidence to achieve their true potential.

A handwritten signature in purple ink, appearing to read 'S. P. Daley', with a horizontal line underneath.

Name: Mr Stephen P Daley

Academy Trust Accounting Officer

Date: 18 December 2014