

# Value for Money Statement

Academy trust name: **Graham James Primary Academy**

Academy trust company number: **8476253**

Year ended **31 August 2013**

I accept that as accounting officer of **Graham James Primary 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**

We regularly review the staffing structure to ensure staff are efficiently deployed and are appropriately qualified and experienced to give the pupils the best educational opportunities as they move through all phases at the Academy. We regularly review the curriculum to ensure it is broad and balanced and provides the pupils with all the skills they need for the next phase in their academic journey.

- **Focus on Individual Pupils**

We ensure all pupils receive quality first teaching and support. Our SENCO and her team provide quality interventions to those children that require additional support both learning and social. We deploy qualified and experienced teaching staff to support children with additional needs and those that are more able to ensure all pupils make the most progress they can.

- **Collaboration**

We have worked closely with the other academies in our Umbrella Trust to provide support to pupils, to provide CPD for staff to raise standards and to join together for financial best value also. The Academy also works closely with other local schools under the Cluster arrangement which has provided continued CPD

for all staff and leadership teams.

- **New Initiatives**

We continue to investigate ways to improve our provision and have worked hard to produce a relevant curriculum that meets the needs of our children and their families.

- **Quantifying Improvements**

Our attainment and progress continues to be within the National Average figures and above. We continue to strive to improve standards year on year and this is evidenced in our results at both keystages. Attendance is above national and we were judged outstanding for behaviour and safety in our most recent Ofsted inspection. The academy trust continues to ensure this level is maintained and improved on.

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### **Financial Governance and Oversight**

Our financial governance and oversight is strong, with a high level of expertise on our Governing Body and Finance Governors Sub-Committee.

Accounts are prepared and presented to the Governing Body at every meeting of the Finance Sub-Committee and are discussed and agreed.

Spending proposals are costed and presented to Senior Leaders/Governors and challenged appropriately.

### **Better Purchasing**

The Academy Manager has been influential in driving down costs through better procurement and negotiations throughout the year.

- **Fitness for Purpose**

All contracts have been reviewed on an annual basis to ensure they are still fit for purpose and best value for our academy. The Academy has negotiated a specialist company to oversee this process also and we have successfully negotiated costings on contracts for best value and continue to pursue contracts that can be negotiated across the Umbrella Trust.

- **Benchmarking**  
The Academy spend is benchmarked against other academies and areas where we over or under spend have been investigated and assurances provided that the spend is appropriate to our Academy.
- **Options Appraisal**  
The Academy ensures the tendering process is strictly followed in line with our Financial Regulations and policies. All required quotes are obtained and reviewed to ensure the best value for money is achieved. Governors provide support and challenge on all decisions to ensure this is the case.
- **Economies of Scale**  
The trust continues to work with the Umbrella Trust partners to consider any opportunities to reduce and share administration and procurement costs.

**Lessons Learned**

All service contracts are under review to ensure we receive the best value for money and the best service. We have identified a need to increase the ICT hardware and technical support and are in negotiations with the Umbrella Trust's Academies to investigate a way forward to support this process. We are also looking into Site Support across the Umbrella.

Signed: P. Back  
 Name: P. BACK  
 Academy Trust Accounting Officer  
 Date: 16/12/13