

Value for Money Statement

Academy trust name: **St Bart's Multi Academy Trust**

Academy trust company number: **8735454**

Year ended **31 August 2014**

I accept that as accounting officer of **St Bart's Multi Academy Trust** 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 outcomes

The Trustees of St Bart's Multi Academy has regularly reviewed staff deployment to ensure that staff are working effectively to ensure the best possible outcomes for the children. Effective and efficient re-deployment of staff and resources enabled us to support all children.

The 2014 results for the three academies are shown below.

KS1 Results

Cranberry	Level 2c+		Level 2b+		Level 3	
	2014 School	2013 National	2014 School	2013 National	2014 School	2013 National
Reading	90%	89%	77%	79%	30%	29%
Writing	90%	85%	67%	67%	10%	15%
Mathematics	93%	91%	80%	78%	17%	23%

St Michaels' Academy	Level 2c+		Level 2b+		Level 3	
	2014 School	2013 National	2014 School	2013 National	2014 School	2013 National
Reading	77%	89%	64%	79%	14%	29%
Writing	71%	85%	54%	67%	7%	15%
Mathematics	84%	91%	77%	78%	9%	23%

St Nathaniel's Academy	Level 2c+		Level 2b+		Level 3	
	2014 School	2013 National	2014 School	2013 National	2014 School	2013 National
Reading	82%	89%	63%	79%	10%	29%
Writing	80%	85%	50%	67%	3%	15%
Mathematics	92%	91%	60%	78%	7%	23%

KS2 Results

Cranberry Academy	Level 4 National 2013	Level 4	Level 5	2 levels progress	3 levels progress
Reading	86%	94%	73%	100%	26%
Writing	83%	88%	27%	97%	26%
SPAG	74%	88%	76%		
Maths	85%	91%	58%	97%	13%
Reading, Writing and Maths	75%	85%			

St Michael's Community Academy	Level 4 National 2013	Level 4	Level 5	2 levels progress	3 levels progress
Reading	86%	79%	73%	100%	76%
Writing	83%	73%	18%	100%	42%
SPAG	74%	73%	45%		
Maths	85%	73%	45%	94%	45%
Reading, Writing and Maths	75%	70%			

St Nathaniel's Academy	Level 4 National 2013	Level 4	Level 5	2 levels progress	3 levels progress
Reading	86%	76%	29%	92%	39%
Writing	83%	76%	6%	92%	30%
SPAG	74%	65%	27%		
Maths	85%	61%	16%	82%	22%
Reading, Writing and Maths	75%	57%			

The Trust is pleased with the progress demonstrated with the 2014 key stage test results in both key stage one and two. However, it recognises the continued challenges faced by its schools.

The inclusion teams in each academy was led by a member of the senior leadership team who had responsibility for the children across the school with special educational needs and ensured inclusive practice for everyone. The team's detailed provision map ensured children with specific needs received the appropriate interventions. The spending of Pupil Premium was monitored in each academy to ensure that the Pupil Premium funding was appropriately directed and had a positive impact on achievement to close the gap.

The trust academies have worked closely together with Belgrave St Bartholomew's Academy and with each other to share ideas and practices to raise standards across all the academies. This work included network meetings, learning walks and teaching and learning reviews and shared staff across the trust schools. All schools have accessed training and support through Britannia Teaching School, (Belgrave is a cohort 2 Teaching School).

Financial governance and oversight

The trusts system of financial governance included strong oversight by the trustees and accounting officer. The financial running of the academies has been regularly audited both by a Responsible Officer who reported back to the trustees each term, and also by the annual audit prior to the production of the annual company accounts. Any recommendations were acted upon to continually improve the Trust practices. The Trust received support throughout the year from its External Auditors on compliance and accounting practices. The Strategic Development Committees in each academy received half termly monitoring reports and asked appropriate challenging questions regarding spending priorities to ensure value for money. The Trustees approved the budget and was mindful of the need to balance expenditure against income to

ensure the Academy Trust remained a 'going concern'. The Trust received and approved the Annual Accounts and the External Auditors Management Report.

Better purchasing

Tender exercises were undertaken to ensure that high value contracts were assessed against the marketplace on a regular basis to ensure that long term contracts (3 to 5 years) remain competitive. For purchases above £10,000, but below the tender limit, 3 quotes were required. Where the quality and provision of products/or services have been securely high and consistent, multi year purchasing contracts have been entered into to gain discounts and best value.

As the St Bart's Multi Academy Trust grows, it is likely that the Belgrave Trust will work together with St Bart's to renegotiate contracts on economies of scale and may look at bringing additional services in-house.

Maximising income generation

Each Academy has explored opportunities to generate income linked to the hire of Academy facilities. Each Academy provided extensive extra-curricular activities free of charge.

Reviewing control and managing risks

Regular budget reports were reviewed to ensure expenditure was in line with budgeted expectations. Any virements between budget areas were authorised by the Principal of the relevant Academy. Cash balances held in the bank account attracted a small amount of interest. Investment opportunities were checked regularly.

Each Senior Leadership Group reviewed expenditure within each budget heading annually and made adjustments based on the effectiveness of strategies introduced in previous years, curriculum offer and any new strategies identified in the Academy Development Plan.

The Academy Trust worked with other schools collaboratively to ensure that procurement costs were kept to a minimum.

The Academy Trust's risk management system was reviewed regularly to mitigate risk and efficiency.

Lessons learned

Look at centrally procured supplies and services which may be more cost effective and provide a better service than individually negotiated contracts

Signed:

Name: Lisa Sarikaya.....

Academy Trust Accounting Officer

Date: