



## **Value for Money Statement**

**Academy trust name: Abbey College, Ramsey**

**Academy trust company number: 07740516**

**Year ended 31 August 2014**

I accept that as accounting officer at **Abbey College, Ramsey**, 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:**

Over the course of the year, the College have ensured that resources are directed where they are most needed and most effective in meeting educational requirements, for example by:

- Targeting resources in line with the School Improvement Plan priorities, including:
  - Recruitment of a Teaching and Learning specialist in English responsible for curriculum innovation.
  - Redeployment of specialist Teaching Assistants to support identified needs.
  - Implementing initiatives to ensure pupil learning is child led, underpinned by competencies and being challenging enough to meet individual needs.
- Professional development for all staff to implement curriculum and assessment processes and further improve subject knowledge.
- Developing the assessment, tracking and monitoring processes to ensure that data is used to inform planning, target interventions and support differentiation, including regular internal and Senior Leadership Team meetings to review progress and impact of interventions for different groups of pupils.
- Developing new staff appraisal processes for effective monitoring of performance and pay progression.
- Using Pupil Premium to increase our levels of progress and support our strategies to improve attendance, reduce poor learning habits, and continue with KS3 &4 interventions.



## **Financial Governance and Oversight:**

Examples of steps taken to ensure value for money when purchasing include:

- Exploring alternative purchasing options, both on-line and direct through suppliers, to obtain the best value.
- Working with other local schools in partnership to identify products and services that can be procured across a number of schools in order to drive down cost and/or negotiate favourable rates. For example: software solutions, maintenance and H&S contracts.
- Governors and school managers have developed procedures for assessing need and obtaining goods/services which provide "best value" in terms of suitability, efficiency, time and cost. Measures in place include: competitive tendering procedures, high value purchases require three written quotes, procedures for accepting "best value" quotes, which are not necessarily the cheapest where suitability for purpose and quality of workmanship are required, benchmarking of suppliers, procedures which minimise office time by the purchase of goods/services direct from known reliable suppliers.
- The Deputy Director of Finance, Business and Administration has been influential in driving down costs through better procurement and negotiation throughout 2013-14, including catering and property management. All contracts are reviewed on an annual basis to ensure that they are fit for purpose and give best value to the school.

## **Better Income Generation**

The College continues to promote adult education programmes and offers the hire of the premises for weddings, clubs and community events.

## **Reviewing Controls and Managing Risks:**

The Finance & General Purpose Committee, Director of Finance Business and Administration, Deputy Director of Finance Business and Administration, budget holders and the Senior Leadership Team have reviewed regular budget reports. This has ensured that spending is within budget and forward plans are agreed and implemented when there has been any variance.

Actions taken to manage risk include the appropriate level of insurance cover. Professional advice for HR and legal service providers has also been sought when needed.

Signed.....

Dated.....

Mr A Christoforou  
Academy Trust Accounting Officer