

Value for Money Statement

Organisation name: Diocese of Southwell and Nottingham Multi-academy Trust

Company number: 8738949

Year ended 31 August 2014

I accept that as accounting officer of Diocese of Southwell and Nottingham 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 Results:

I have ensured that resources are directed where they are most needed and most effective in meeting educational requirements, for example by:

- Working with the academy senior leadership team to ensure that the Academy Improvement Plan is more tightly targeted on pupil outcomes
- Targeting resources in line with the Academy Improvement Plan (AIP) priorities
- Reviewing the use of curriculum across the academy, which includes the deployment of teaching and support staff resources;
- Reorganising the pastoral structure of the academy to year groups to focus more precisely on student progress
- Developing the assessment, tracking and monitoring processes to ensure data is used to inform planning, target interventions and support differentiation, including regular meetings to review progress and impact of interventions for different groups of pupils.
- Reviewing staff Performance Review and Appraisal processes for effective monitoring of performance.

The effectiveness of these strategies will, over time, be seen in improved pupil outcomes, staff observations and preparations for delivery of a new curriculum.

Financial Governance and Oversight:

The governance arrangements include regular monitoring by the Board of Directors and its Finance & Audit Committee. They receive regular financial reports and ask relevant questions as evidenced in the minutes. There are three highly experienced finance specialists on the Board of Directors.

The work of these committees is further informed by regular Internal Assurance reports following monitoring visits undertaken by our appointed Chartered Accountants.

Reviewing Controls and Managing Risks:

The Finance & Audit Committee have reviewed regular budget reports and made future recommendations to improve these. 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 appointment of appropriately qualified staff to monitor the MAT finances to safeguard the financial risks to the MAT. This is in addition to an appropriately qualified Finance Director overseeing the financial operations across the academies within the MAT. Professional advice (for example from the HR and legal service providers) has been sought when needed.

Future Objectives:

I recognise the need to continue developing relationships with other academies and increase our MAT growth in order to benefit from economies of scale in procuring products and services, developing staff and sharing knowledge, skill and expertise.

Name: Mrs Claire Meese

Academy Trust Accounting Officer

Date: 18 Dec 2014