



## Value for Money Statement

**Academy Trust Name: Hall Cross Academy**  
**Academy Trust Company Number: 07902880**  
**Year Ended 31 August 2014**

I accept that as Accounting Officer of Hall Cross 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 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

Hall Cross Academy was inspected earlier this year. The outcome was good in all areas.

The Trust has kept the staffing structure under review, particularly with regard to student numbers, class sizes and subjects. Staff have been deployed efficiently to support the curriculum and this will continue during 2014/15.

We have ensured that resources were directed where they were most needed and most effective in meeting educational requirements. Examples included:-

- Recruitment of Teaching Assistants to support Maths, English and Science intervention.
- Collaboration training days with other members of the Yorkshire Educational Trust.
- Further developments of our assessment, tracking and monitoring processes to ensure data is used to inform planning, target intervention and differentiation.
- Review and reorganisation of the sixth form leadership team and their roles. The average points per A Level were the highest ever in the Summer 2014 results.

The value of these strategies should be seen in improved pupil outcomes and staff effectiveness.

Headteacher: Pippa Dodgshon

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## **Financial Governance and Oversight**

The Governing Body approve the annual budget forecast of the Academy trust and review our admissions numbers. The Governing Body receives and approves the Annual Report and Financial Statements following the annual audit by the external auditors and takes action on any recommendations made by them.

The Finance & Resources Committee meet at least termly to review budget monitoring reports and approve larger expenditure items in compliance with the Academy trust's Financial Regulations. This academic year the Finance & Resources Committee have undertaken a further Financial Benchmarking exercise, comparing the Academy financial performance with other Secondary Academies from across the region.

The Academy has appointed a Responsible Officer from a local accountancy firm, Allotts Chartered Accountants, who undertake systems and accounting checks and report findings to the Governing Body on a regular basis.

## **Better Purchasing**

The Academy moved its payroll service in house during the academic year so that better value for money could be achieved. Other services such as grounds maintenance, catering and cleaning were brought in house during the previous academic year.

The Academy tendering policy ensures that tenders/quotes are obtained as appropriate to ensure value for money with all major projects.

The Academy Business Manager reviews and signs off every purchase order on behalf of the academy and regularly challenges these for efficiency and effectiveness.

All contracts are assessed and reviewed at the end of the agreement period.

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### **Maximising Income Generation**

The Academy makes use of its resources by hiring out facilities to the local community and other schools. The Academy ensures that all surplus monies are actively managed and invested in risk free interest bearing accounts.

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

The Principal and Academy Business Manager review budget monitoring reports, considering expenditure against each budget cost centre, and address any significant variances against budget.

The Finance & Resources Committee review the budget forecast on a termly basis.

The Governing Body considers the risks and their management via the annual review of our Risk Register. The Risk register analyses risk in four key areas:-

- Strategic & Reputational Risks
- Operational Risks
- Compliance Risks
- Financial Risks

The Governing Body also approves the Academy Financial Regulations on an annual basis and other key financial policies such as the Charging Policy.

There is full segregation of duties within the Finance team.

Signed: .....

Pippa Dodgshon

Principal and Accounting Officer

Date: .....

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