

# Value for Money Statement

**Organisation name: ST IVES INFANT SCHOOL**

**Company number: 7713374**

**Year ended 31 August 2014**

I accept that as accounting officer of ST IVES INFANT SCHOOL 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

At the end of the school year 2013 – 2014 the school secured very good end of Key Stage 1 results which were above the national average at Level 2+, Level 3 and APS (Average Points Score). The Level 2+ results increased in reading, writing and maths. This represented significant progress for the children concerned from when they entered the school in the nursery or Reception year.

A carefully planned programme of intervention work was implemented through the school year and any child who was not making or exceeding expected progress attended relevant 1:1 and small group teaching. This work was carried out by trained teaching assistants under the direction of the headteacher and deputy head and sufficient time was given to guide their work, identify clear objectives and review the children's progress towards their individual goals.

Particular attention has continued to be paid to the effective use of the school's Pupil Premium funding. The attainment and progress of each child who is eligible for this funding is carefully tracked and their individual needs assessed. This analysis is then used to shape the support which they receive to enhance their attainment and develop their interests and talents. The gap between the Average Point Scores (APS) for disadvantaged pupils and other pupils in the school narrowed from 2013 to 2014. The gap between these children and other children nationally across all subjects is now 0.9 APS.

The school has continued to work closely with the other schools in the St Ives area through the ECM St Ives initiative. The cluster shares a business manager and the schools work together to provide joint projects for the children, holiday provision and the town's youth council.

The school's attendance rate was identified as a key issue during its Ofsted inspection in September 2013. The school reviewed the strategies and procedures which were in place to promote good attendance and considered additional measures. As a result the school has employed a part-time Home School Liaison Officer to work with parents to improve their children's attendance. Dedicated time can be given to following up all absences and meeting with parents to discuss the underlying reasons and develop solutions. The member of staff is highly effective in this role and has forged very positive relationships with parents. As a result the school's absence rate decreased from 6.2% in 2012 – 2013 to 5.0% in 2013 – 2014.

## Financial governance and oversight

The school's business manager visits the school each week and prepares monthly monitoring reports which are given to the Finance and Premises Committee and, on a termly basis, to the full governing body. The Finance and Premises Committee reviews the budget, questions the headteacher and business manager and checks variance from the expected profile of the budget each term.

As accounting officer I exercise strong oversight of the school's budget and financial procedures. I meet with the school's business manager each week to discuss any financial issues and on a day to day basis I authorise orders and review invoices.

The budget setting process is closely linked to the development of the School Improvement Plan to enable full account to be taken of the financial implications of new projects. All governors are invited to the budget setting meeting and all are involved in the preliminary discussions which are taken at committee meetings.

The governing body meets annually to review the school's audited accounts and ensures that any recommendations made by the auditors are immediately implemented.

## Better purchasing

During the year the school reviewed its arrangements for photocopying and printing and waste management. In

both cases this resulted in a change of contractor in order to secure greater value for money and reliability for the school.

#### Reviewing controls and managing risks

In January 2014 the school arranged for the role of Responsible Officer to be carried out by a separate branch of its accountants. Four visits were made to school to review our internal controls and procedures. Written reports were presented to governors following each visit. This system has proved to be very helpful for the school and while we were reassured that our systems are robust there were some helpful recommendations which we were able to implement. For instance delivery notes are now kept and filed with the corresponding order and a second person is required to make a random cash count of the school's petty cash.

**Name:** Miss Joanne Dean

**Academy Trust Accounting Officer**

**Date:** 19 Dec 2014