

# Value for Money Statement

**Academy trust name: Pursuing Educational Excellence Together**

**Academy trust company number: 8064698**

**Year ended 31 August 2013**

I accept that as accounting officer of **Pursuing Educational Excellence Together** 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.

***As the Accounting Officer I have continued to manage the budget with the input of Governors and the Schools Senior Finance Officer. Our practice has been no different this year than any other of my thirteen years of tenure with the exception of the amount of time given since we became an academy of completing bureaucratic activities. This statement is one of those bureaucratically silly activities which as a member of the DfE Bureaucracy Reference Group a number of members have raised.***

***We are historically the worst funded secondary school in Shropshire and therefore because of our profile had MFG applied last year 2013/2014 which reduced our budget which is shocking in itself. However thanks to our due diligence and enterprising approach we produced a balanced budget. We continue to be innovative in generating income through letting our site. We also raised the number of students on role which we didn't want to do but had to and also lobbied at local, regional and national level regarding funding levels and the ill-thought through nominal SEN funding in the school budget share.***

***School improvement has been brought about through having a School Improvement Plan that does not cost anything other than staff input. This seems to work as we got 'Outstanding' from OFSTED in June 2013.***

***We achieve best value by pleading poverty and squeezing all our providers to provide us with the most competitive price. Governors are actively involved for example in spending time in buying gas and electricity so that we could offset the gains from this against the pay award.***

***Internal controls are great we've employed a great Senior Finance Officer Duncan Wright who is a Chartered Accountant, he is doing a fabulous job and Governors are delighted with his work. We also have an internal audit undertaken each term by Sally Currin which the Responsible Officer likes because he doesn't have to do it yet can set the agenda. Also External Auditors say that our internal controls are brilliant. We publish our budget each year on our website to ensure transparency.***

***In short we think we do a fabulous job of producing a balanced budget in an impossible financial situation. Roll on 2015/2016 when at long last Shropshire will be moving towards getting a realistic budget. As I'm about to retire I won't be here to enjoy the rewards of something that I have long campaigned for but hey ho you can't have everything.***

**Signed: ...Candy Garbett.....**

**Name: ...Ms Candy Garbett.....**

**Academy Trust Accounting Officer**

**Date: .....12-05-14.....**