

# Value for Money Statement

**Academy trust name:**

**Federation of Abbey Schools Academy Trust**

**Academy trust company number: 07699775**

**Year ended 31 August 2013**

I accept that as accounting officer of **The Federation of Abbey Schools 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.

The aims of the academy focus on the core purpose of the school, educating children to be successful learners, confident individuals and responsible citizens. The school improvement plan 2012 – 13 focused on improving pupil progress in writing and science and introducing a skill based curriculum for the foundation subjects. This resulted in progress in writing and science improving across the site, changes of class topics have enhanced pupil engagement and a desire to learn. The funding we received has been directed to support all children and meet their needs.

All staff have received relevant training appropriate to their role; as a partner school in High Force Education SCITT we have been able to train our own teachers and employ them as newly qualified teachers in our academy. School improvement support and advice has been sought from various outside agencies; as has support for children with SEN. The service of school advisers has been carefully chosen, depending on their skill and area of expertise; matching this to the needs of the school. Procurement of SEN agencies, such as Educational Psychology and Speech & Language therapy has now been possible and effective within our academy status, enabling a more cost effective service. Specific programmes have been purchased and implemented to support progress in whole classes, groups and with individual pupils.

In addition to using Raiseonline data for school improvement; the academy also buys the services of Darlington's data analysis team who produce an extensive brochure on pupil data and in addition purchase an online tracking system to monitor pupil progress. The junior building had a successful Ofsted inspection in December 2012.

The academy has developed the site to maintain excellent accommodation for the children; including enabling a new roof to be built on the junior building through a successful bid to the Academies Capital Maintenance Fund. All classrooms have been decorated during 2012 - 13 enhancing the appearance of both buildings. The academy uses a process for tenders which is outlined in our 'Financial Procedures' document and followed this precisely in order to have best value when procuring contractors for the roof build and classroom painting.

The first year of our 'in house' school meals provision has been extremely successful; the price of a school meal has been maintained with more choice of meals that are of a much higher quality. School meals are a non profit section of our company, therefore we have been able to invest surplus monies into the infrastructure of the catering organisation; again using our specific process for tenders securing best value.

Governors receive regular updates from the Responsible Officer via the Finance Committee. The governors regularly debate and challenge the cost and effectiveness of spending proposals within the Trust and contribute to the decisions made. All Governing Body meetings and committee meetings are clerked by a member of the Academy team and minutes are available for scrutiny; employing our own clerk to the governing body has been another example of effective use of applying known skills and demonstrating best value.

The work of the Business Team has been an excellent example of ownership of an effective system which works efficiently; all company work is done on site without any external financial overheads in cost.

At the end of the 2012 -13 academic year, the academy successfully achieved the accolades of Investors in People, Primary Science Quality Mark, Governor Mark and STAR award for sustainable travel. These awards are an external recognition of the work on site and contribute to the understanding of the culture and ethos of the academy.

Signed: .....

Name: Elaine McCue

**Academy Trust Accounting Officer**

Date: