



# Marling School

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## Value for Money Statement

Academy Trust Name: Marling School  
Academy Trust Company Number: 7692339  
Year ended 31/8/13

I accept that as Accounting Officer of Marling 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 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

Staff at the Academy have worked hard to ensure that teaching and learning is effective for all students. As a consequence, both teaching and the achievement of students were described by Ofsted in November 2013 as 'Outstanding'. To support teaching, there is in place a strong system for tracking student progress and achievement coupled with a programme of early and appropriate intervention. We have ensured that resources are directed where they are most needed to meet education requirements and raise individual levels of attainment, including 'Focus' and 'Inspire' programmes, targeted revision sessions during holiday periods and our mentoring programmes.

The Academy deploys equipment, materials and services to provide students and staff with resources that support the quality of teaching and learning and provide an educational environment that promotes learning and recreation.

The Academy places a strong emphasis on the development of good and outstanding teaching and learning, closely monitoring the performance of staff and ensuring that appropriate support is provided where necessary. In November 2013 Ofsted reported that "Checks on teaching enable weaknesses to be followed up and eliminated; hence almost all teaching is good or outstanding. Staff are fully held to account for the progress of their classes but also feel well supported in their quest to improve. Many report that the performance management process is valuable and they appreciate the additional training opportunities that are offered as a result".

### Financial Governance

The Academy closely follows its Financial Handbook guidelines on achieving best value (available on the Academy website). Governors apply the four principles of best value challenge, comparison, consultation and competition, in their review of the Academy expenditure. Our governance arrangements include regular monitoring by the Governing Body and its committees including the Finance and Audit Committee. These committees meet five times per year. They receive relevant financial management reports and interrogate information as documented in the minutes. The Governing Body receives and approves the Annual Accounts and the external auditors' Findings Report.

*Raising Aspirations, Inspiring Excellence, Succeeding Together*

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The work of the committees is further informed by the work of the Responsible Officer (RO). The RO undertakes four visits per annum to review financial controls in key areas of procedure, including expenditure, and then report to the Finance and Audit Committee after each visit. The Academy receives support on compliance and accounting practices throughout the year from its External Auditors.

Budget holders are responsible for ensuring value for money within their area of responsibility. Annual budgets are based on a review of previous year's expenditure and department requests which are also reviewed to ensure these meet the needs of the Academy and its students.

The success of this financial governance is perhaps best measured by the fact that the academy is operating on a balanced budget and maintaining a small carry forward surplus. This is despite being in one of the lowest funded authorities in the country and having a relatively high staffing budget, typical of grammar schools.

### **Effective purchasing**

Services and contracts are appraised or renegotiated in a timely manner to ensure the best mix of quality and cost effectiveness. Major purchases and contracts are always tendered; for example the current £3M building contract for our new classroom block and dining hall was tendered to five separate contractors with two phases of interview before awarding the contract.

We work with other local schools to share knowledge about experience of best value together with quality of service and reliability.

Longer term contracts (e.g. two or three years) are sometimes used to deliver reduced costs where it is felt that this would benefit the Academy (e.g. insurance, catering).

### **Income generation**

The Academy continues to generate income from letting out the school premises and we believe the community, as well as our students, benefits from the wide range of activities that can be offered via external providers. Lettings income provides a valuable source of income that is used primarily to maintain the premises but also to support the Academy's academic activities.

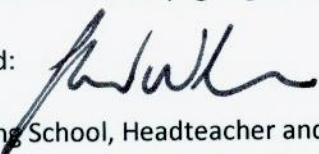
The Academy ensures that any surplus monies are actively managed and invested in appropriate interest bearing accounts.

### **Reviewing controls and managing risks**

Monthly management reports are prepared by the Finance Office and are reviewed by Budget Holders, the Headteacher and the Finance and Audit Committee of Governors.

The Governing Body considers financial risks and management through the annual review of the Risk Register. Professional advice (e.g. legal, HR) is sought to mitigate financial risk as appropriate.

Signed:



Marling School, Headteacher and Accounting Officer

Date: 31st December 2013