

# Value for Money Statement

**Organisation name: Cirencester Deer Park School**

**Company number: 7524811**

**Year ended 31 August 2014**

I accept that as accounting officer of Cirencester Deer Park 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.

## Delivering Strong Educational Results

Our broad and personalised curriculum enables pupils to achieve well. In 2014 100% of pupils who attended school in Year 11 left school with 5 or more GCSEs or equivalent, 75% of pupils achieved 5 or more GCSEs at grade A\*-C and 67% achieved 5 or more A\*-C grades including English and Maths. All of these figures are well above national averages for comprehensive schools. Our KS2-KS4 Value Added was 1,018 which places us in the top 25% of schools nationally for the progress that our learners make.

We also look closely at the performance of all groups of pupils such as gender groups, those with special education needs or those who are underprivileged and all of these groups are doing at least as well as their peers in other schools nationally and in most cases much better.

Our staffing structure and level of resource is continually under review to balance the needs of providing excellent quality learning and teaching and the financial resources available. This is particularly important during a period where pupil numbers have fluctuated due to demographic trends in the areas that the school serves.

## Robust Governance and Financial Controls

Our Governing Body provides oversight and challenge across all areas of the School's operations. Our Governing Body was awarded the Governor Mark quality assurance award in 2012 and was commented on as a real strength of the school during our last Ofsted inspection in 2013.

We have strong financial controls in place which are supported by checks carried out for part of the year by our own Responsible Officer (who was a member of the Governing Body and qualified accountant) until his retirement in late 2013 and subsequently by an external consultant who provides an internal audit function, and our External Auditors. Our 2014 external audit report identified no significant control issues and this has been the case for many years.

The School aims to run a balanced budget but also has financial reserves available accumulated over a number of years with which to provide additional resources for targeted interventions in key subjects and investment in school facilities where and when required.

## Demonstrating Good Value For Money

We have robust procedures in place for placing of contracts and purchasing of goods and services to ensure best value for money. These include undertaking tendering exercises for major items of spending such as insurance and capital investment projects. We also collaborate with other schools locally to jointly procure services and offer additional curriculum options where possible.

We routinely use benchmarking data to ensure that our resource usage is consistent with other schools and to challenge ourselves where we appear to be out of line with others.

We generate significant additional income through a subsidiary company which manages the hiring out of our facilities to local sports and other organisations.

## Managing Risk

The school has a comprehensive Risk Register in place which is regularly reviewed and updated as necessary by senior staff and the Governing Body. The matrix identifies the risks facing the school and the potential likelihood and impact of that risk and identifies the control measures in place to remove or reduce the likelihood/impact. The School has comprehensive insurance policies in place.

**Name: Ms Chiquita Henson**  
**Academy Trust Accounting Officer**

**Date: 18 Dec 2014**