



VALUE FOR MONEY STATEMENT

Academy Trust Name : Lighthouse Harmonize Education Trust

Academy Trust Company No : 07657235

Year Ending 31st August 2022

I accept that as Accounting Officer of Lighthouse Harmonize Education Trust – Harmonize Academy 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, and I report to the Governing Body where value for money can be improved, including the use of benchmarking data where available.

The school's capacity for 2021-22 was 150 following approval being given for LHET's 'significant changes' application to expand places from 104 to 150. We had another very successful year which has been a year of growth with more student referrals than ever and support from the DfE, local authority and local schools to facilitate the expansion of student numbers. One fifth of places was commissioned from Liverpool City Council's Alternative Provision and SEN Teams for students who have been permanently excluded from school; and four fifths commissioned from schools and authorities across Merseyside and Cheshire for those students in danger of exclusion or for those students who cannot cope in a mainstream setting for a variety of reasons.

Best value principles were applied in assessing the current needs of the academy.

The following factors were considered in the decision-making process when obtaining any goods and services:

- Differing needs of our students
- Increased student numbers – revised timetable to accommodate 12 classes of 8/9 students
- Membership of CPC - Crescent Purchasing Consortium
- Membership of CCS - Crown Commercial Service

The accounting officer for the academy trust has delivered improved value for money during the year, examples of which are as follows:-

- As a result of careful management of funds, the older buildings in the school have been refurbished to bring them up to a similar standard to the new buildings so that

neither staff nor the young people in the school see any major differences between the two.

- We use Crown Commercial Service (CCS) to purchase best price energy for the school. CCS is the biggest public procurement organisation in the UK and plays an important role helping the public sector save money when buying common goods and services. CCS is currently used by Liverpool City Council.
- As members of the Crescent Purchasing Consortium, this helps us to achieve value for money with our purchasing requirements particularly in tendering for larger contracts.
- Our catering contract continues to be with a local 'not for profit' sustainable school meals company who provides good quality healthy nutritional meals and uses local produce and suppliers. They aim to raise standards and offer quality of choice and ensure compliance with food hygiene and health and safety legislation.
- The continued lease of a minibus and the purchase of the previously leased minibus at a greatly discounted cost have proved invaluable in transporting students on PE lessons and enrichment activities including trips to local sports venues. This has proved much more cost effective than regular hire arrangements and taxi costs.

Current Year Review

Financial governance and oversight.

Our governance arrangements include regular monitoring by the Governing Body and its committees including the Finance and Resources Committee and Audit Committee. They receive regular reports and updates at the meetings which are held half termly.

Internal controls.

An internal financial procedures handbook is in operation. JD Education Finance Services provided internal auditor services.

Managing risks.

The Risk Management Policy has been approved by the full Governing Body. The Risk Register identifies and manages the academy trust's significant risks and is reviewed continuously throughout the year. The governor sub committees evaluate and review effectively risks associated with their area of responsibility and report regularly to the full governing body.

Purchasing.

Procedures are in place for assessing need when purchasing all goods and services. The CPC membership will help us achieve value for money and support us in the tendering process for larger contracts.

Minibus – From 21st February 2018 the academy purchased a previously leased minibus at a heavily discounted rate and leased a further minibus (for a period of 60 months). Having two minibuses has proved invaluable in transporting students on enrichment activities or the PE Dept for local trips to sports venues and whole school end of term trips to various venues. It is hoped we will purchase a new minibus in 2023 to save on lease costs.

Curriculum

The school's broad curriculum continued to offer a range of GCSE and vocational qualifications. These included the core subjects of English, Maths, Biology, PE, LAMDA Speaking and Listening and PSHE, supplemented with Performing Arts, Dance and Music,

Beauty, Chemistry, Childcare, Design Technology, Food Technology, and GCSEs in Physical Education, Psychology and Statistics. These options underpin the school's ethos of '*A Vision for Life*' and its values of *Trust, Respect, Compassion and Forgiveness* permeate through the whole school.

We work closely with many organisations to support the curriculum in providing opportunity for students to raise their individual levels of attainment. Examples this year have been: – Archbishop of York Youth Trust – Young Leaders Award; Liverpool Dyslexia Centre – Literacy Programme, English & Maths – 1.1 tuition where University students work 1-1 or with small numbers.

Enrichment Programme

Enrichment offers pupils many choices including beauty, catering, dance, gospel singing, music (guitar/drums/DJing), music technology, film and photography, cultural trips, horse-riding, PE, free-running, football, golf, table-tennis, art, catering, bowling and 1-1 English, Maths, Science and Vocational subjects.

National Tutoring Programme: After school catch up English, Maths and Science is part-funded by the DfE's National Tutoring Programme.

Mental Health Support and Careers Advice and Support

We organised Health & Wellbeing activity days to promote positive mental health. We also provided career support, advice and guidance to enable all of our year 11 students to progress positively to further education, employment and training. Due to Covid and the disruption to students' education, Minister Ford provided extra funding to support our year 11 students over the summer holidays and the following autumn term to ensure they moved on to continued education, employment and training. Through offering this additional support, we have seen the need to develop a programme of support for students once they move on from Harmonize and, an alumni tracking programme for students who move up to their careers to come back into school to inspire and support our students.

Assistant Principal/SEND Co, Mr Gerard Tiernan completed ROAR Whole School Approach Senior Mental Health Training [Liverpool Learning Partnership & Merseyside Youth Association] in March 2022.

Catering Contract

Food for Thought (Merseyside) Ltd - a local 'not for profit' School Meals Company continued to provide valuable support throughout the year. They work in partnership with us to provide a catering service for our students while ensuring compliance with food hygiene and health & safety legislation. Best value was obtained by using local produce and suppliers to provide nutritional meals. This is reviewed annually

Future Objectives

Curriculum – We will continue to work with outside organisations and seek to increase our connections for the benefit of our students. This academic year has shown the importance

of collaboration with other educational providers and experts in supporting the complex needs of our students.

Enrichment Programme – we aim to constantly review and improve on providing new opportunities and experiences for our students. We value the importance of our enrichment programme in helping students to develop social skills and gain confidence to achieve their true potential.

Signed.....

Name.....MRS MARIE MCCONVILLE.....

Academy Trust Accounting Officer

Date.....21st December 2022.....