



## VALUE FOR MONEY STATEMENT

**Academy Trust Name :** Lighthouse Harmonize Education Trust

**Academy Trust Company No :** 07657235

**Year Ending 31<sup>st</sup> August 2016**

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.

The academic year commenced on 1st September 2015 with a capacity of 104 students. 68 places were commissioned from Liverpool City Council's Alternative Provision Team for students that have been permanently excluded from mainstream school. The remaining 36 places were commissioned from schools across Merseyside for those students who are unable to remain in a mainstream setting for various 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

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

- 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 is with a local 'not for profit' school meals company, providing good quality nutritional meals using local produce and suppliers and ensuring compliance with food hygiene and health and safety legislation.
- The lease of a minibus over a two year period has proved invaluable in transporting students on enrichment activities including trips to local sports venues. This has proved much more cost effective than regular hire arrangements.

## 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. Mitchell Charlesworth, Chartered Accountants provide a Responsible Officer service and report regularly to the Audit Committee.

### 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 1<sup>st</sup> September 2015 the academy lease a minibus (for a period of 24 months) The minibus has proved invaluable in transporting students on enrichment activities or the PE Dept for local trips to sports venues.

### Curriculum

We offer a broad and balanced curriculum with English, Maths and Science at its core. which was broadened in September 2015 with the introduction of GCSE P.E, GCSE Design Technology and GCSE Performing Arts . This is supplemented with Performing and Urban Arts, Beauty, Food Technology and PSHE which underpins the academy's ethos of 'A Vision for Life'. 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 worked with small numbers

### Enrichment Programme

This provides opportunities to experience a variety of activities in addition to the curriculum we offer our students. It includes circus skills, dance, singing, music, music technology, instrument (guitar/drums) tuition, Gospel Singing, Military school team building exercises, cultural trips, horse riding, football, table tennis, art, film club, photography/film, water sports, free running, rock climbing, volley ball

### 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. Taking into account the increase in our student numbers (now at maximum capacity) an additional kitchen staff member was appointed, a Salad Bar was introduced and the service proved successful for another year.

**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.....Stephen Daley.....

Academy Trust Accounting Officer

Date.....28/11/16.....