

# Value for Money Statement

**Organisation name: Leeds Jewish Free School**

**Company number: 7647432**

**Year ended 31 August 2014**

I accept that as accounting officer of Leeds Jewish Free 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.

## Improving educational results

Leeds Jewish Free School completed its first year delivering effective and innovative teaching and learning on the 31 August 2013.

Drawing on the experience and expertise of staff from a nearby large academy school Leeds Jewish Free School as made significant steps to provide the community with secondary high quality teaching and learning built around a Jewish faith, culture and ethos. The Free School's first cohort, now year 8 pupils, have all made significant progress and have met or exceeded all of their targets and set themselves a sound foundation for completing their key stage 3 education and development. This has been mirrored in a rapid level of progress in the new Year 7 cohort.

Targeted improvement and focus on individual pupils:

Staffing structure is deployed to drive and support school improvement and to support a wider curriculum. The aim is to raise achievement so that all students in 2017 - 2018 achieve a minimum 5 A\*-C grades including both English and mathematics. English and mathematics is targeted with additional teaching capacity to provide intervention work for students not achieving expected progress.

Premises:

During 2013-2014 period the governors continued worked closely with the Department of Education (DfE) and the Education Funding Agency (EFA) to manage the completion of the refurbishment and construction of the new school premises. The DfE and EFA's value for money procurement procedures were used to appoint and manage the builder. The building project was successfully completed in March 2014. Other services contracted during the first of operations made use of professional procurement services companies and a project management company to ensure value for money.

Financial governance and oversight:

As accounting officer I have responsibility for reviewing the effectiveness of the system of internal control. During the year in question the review has been informed by:

- the quarterly testing on key financial controls;
- the work of the external auditor; Gibson Booth
- commissioning of a risk based internal audit review by Murray Harcourt
- the work of an experienced academy financial consultant

The academy trust's system of internal financial control is based on a framework of regular management information and administrative procedures including the segregation of duties

In particular it includes:

- comprehensive budgeting and monitoring systems with an annual budget and periodic financial reports which are reviewed and agreed by the trust Board;
- termly reviews of reports which indicate financial performance against the forecasts and of major purchase plans, capital works and expenditure programmes;
- monthly financial and management reports
- setting targets to measure financial and other performance;
- Identification and management of risk

Better Purchasing:

All contracts are appraised or renegotiated in a timely manner. New three year or annual contracts have been entered into after tender to ensure reduced cost where it was felt beneficial, for example photocopiers. We have

reviewed service level agreements assessing value for money.

**Reviewing Controls and Managing Risks:**

The Academy completed the Financial Management and Governance Self-Assessment (FMGS) return to the Education Funding Agency (FFA) in August 2013. This return confirmed the financial management and governance arrangements in place.

The trust Board has formed a Finance and Resources Committee which reviews, and recommends financial and administrative reports to full meetings of the governors. The Finance and Resources Committee has oversight and reviews internal controls and managing risks. It also receives reports from the independent internal auditors and agrees the risk based internal audit plan.

**Name:** Mr Jeremy Dunford  
**Academy Trust Accounting Officer**

**Date:** 17 Dec 2014