

# LINK ACADEMY TRUST

*Landscope School House  
Landscope, Nr Ashburton  
Devon. TQ13 7LY  
Tel: 01803 762113*



## Value for Money Statement

Academy trust name: The Link Academy Trust

Academy trust company number: 10049068

Year ended 31 August 2017

I accept that as accounting officer for the Link Academy Trust 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 Skills Funding Agency (ESFA) and understand that value for money refers to the educational and wider societal outcomes achieved in return for the taxpayer resources received.

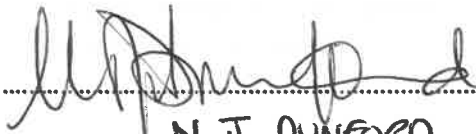
I set out below how I have ensured that the Trust's use of its resources has provided good value for money during the academic year.

1. **Rigorous procedures for establishing, reviewing and evaluating school budget, including comparisons against national good practice and benchmarking. We have ensured that resources are directed where they are most needed and most effective in meeting educational requirements, for example by:**
  - Targeting resources in key subject areas such as literacy and numeracy.
  - Monitoring the needs of particular students and ensuring that the support they receive is relevant to them.
  - Monitoring the performance of particular staff, and ensuring that relevant action is taken to address weaknesses.

The effectiveness of these strategies can be seen in the continual improvement made in curriculum and business standards.

2. **A rigorous policy, ensuring value for money comparisons for purchased items. Example include:**
  - Robust financial governance and budget management, through the employment of full time Trust Business Manager.
  - Value for money purchasing, examples include IT purchasing, reviewing the use of supply staff and staffing structures, and service level agreements with Intoheat, Babcock and other local contractors.

- Examples include the provision of a single photocopier contract for 4 schools creating a £2,000 saving;
  - Central procurement of annual stationery creating a £4,000 saving and the replacement of administrator computers offering a £3,000 saving;
  - Reviewing controls and managing risk;
  - Considering allocation/targeting/use of resources;
  - Deploying staff effectively including the roles of administrators in each academy.
3. Rigorous evaluations of impact on student outcomes, value added progress, student attendance and transition issues.
  4. Sharing of good practice amongst collaborative schools.
  5. Financial Governance. Our governance arrangements include regular monitoring by the Trust Board and its sub-committees, including the Finance & General Purposes (F&GP) and Audit Committee. They receive regular reports, and ask relevant questions as recorded in the minutes. The work of these committees is further informed by regular Internal Audit Officer reports from St Kew Accountants.
  6. Reviewing Controls and Managing Risk. Regular budget reports have been reviewed by the F&GP and Audit Committee, as well as by budget holders, in order to ensure that spending is within budget. Actions taken to manage risk include subscribing to the Risk Protection Arrangement (RPA) provided by the ESFA. Professional advice (e.g. HR/legal) has also been sought when needed.

Signed:  .  
 Name: ..... N. J. DUNFORD .....

Trust Accounting Officer

Date: ..... 15/12/17 .....

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