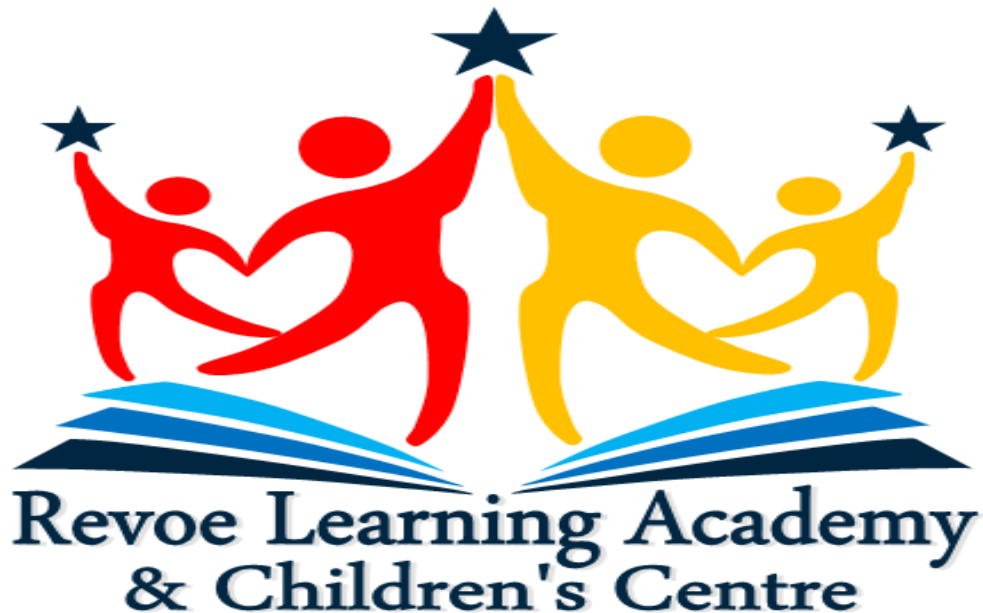


# Our Value for Money Statement



Written / Revised December 2014

**Academy Trust Name: Revoe Learning Academy**

**Academy Trust Company Number: 08597962**

**Year ended 31 August 2014**

I accept that as accounting officer of Revoe Learning Academy (RLA), I, Dayle Harrison, am responsible and accountable for ensuring that RLA 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 (EFA) and understand that value for money refers to the educational and wider societal outcomes achieved in return for taxpayer resources received.

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

My Principal Officer is: Mrs Janet Heywood

## **Improving Educational Results**

Improving educational results remains our key priority. RLA is committed to supporting our pupils and to raise their attainment and aspirations in order to achieve their full potential through academic achievement, enrichment opportunities and extended learning.

## **Targeted Improvement**

We regularly review our staffing structure to ensure all staff are efficiently deployed and are appropriately qualified, experienced and enthusiastic. The areas targeted for improvement are detailed in our School Development Plan (SDP).

## **Focus on Individual Pupils**

RLA has a robust tracking system for monitoring achievement and is continually looking at how data can inform staff in order for them to support and extend the learning of students. Any children that are underachieving can be identified early and interventions put in place.

We carefully monitor the use of Pupil Premium and its impact on attainment for students on Free School Meals and Looked After Children. The use of Pupil Premium and its effectiveness is published annually on the Academy website.

## **Collaboration**

RLA is a member of Blackpool's Multi Academy Trust (MAT) which is a local organisation working in partnership towards providing an excellent education for all pupils. As the sponsored Academy, RLA's Principal Officer has monthly meetings with our sponsor Academies to share ideas, good practice and discuss issues. Staff also work collaboratively with other schools/academies attending training sessions, staff meetings and visits.

## **New Initiatives**

We have started to check our children's benefit eligibility and staff DBS certificates.

## **Quantifying Improvements**

Improvements in our key priority of improving educational results is quantified by our Academy data. We measure our success, and therefore improvement, by comparing ourselves against all schools / academies nationally. We are on a downward trend; in 2014 our children were well below the national average for attainment and below making more than expected progress.

## **Financial Governance and Oversight**

RLA's Governing Body is drawn from parents, staff, community, MAT and Local Authority representatives and meets at least 6 times a year. They consider the Annual Report and Accounts and receive the end of year report from the independent auditor at their meetings.

More detailed financial oversight is supplied by the Accounting Officer, Principal Officer, MAT Directors and LA Finance Team, which meets regularly during the year. This group reviews the internal management accounts and receives regular reports prepared by RLA's Business Manager and Principal Officer.

Any order over £5,000 must have 3 written quotes accompanying it. Orders up to £9999 can be authorised by the Accounting Officer. Orders over £10,000 will be countersigned by 2/3 MAT Directors or Business Managers; orders over £30,000 will be countersigned by the Director of Finance and Chair of Governors. Appropriate tender processes will be actioned where necessary.

### **Better Purchasing**

Contracts are reviewed on an annual basis to ensure they remain fit for purpose and value for money. Three year contracts have been entered into after tender to ensure reduced cost where it was felt that this would benefit the Academy. We have reviewed the Service Level Agreements, assessing value for money. This has resulted in the streamlining of the service provision and the termination of some services with external providers. This will be done on an annual basis in an attempt to bring more services in-house.

### **Benchmarking**

We have yet to begin financial benchmarking. However, RLA continues to discuss services / resources etc with other local academies, including the MAT, in regards to staffing, contract prices and utility costs.

### **Options Appraisal**

The Governing Body and Senior Leadership Team apply the principles of best value when making decisions about:

- Allocation of resources to best promote the aims and values of the Academy
- Targeting of resources to best improve standards and the quality of provision
- Use of resources to best support the various educational needs of all pupils

RLA has developed procedures for assessing need, and obtaining goods and services which provide 'best value' in terms of suitability, efficiency, time and cost. Measures include competitive tendering procedures which accept 'best value'.

### **Economies of Scale**

RLA takes advantage of bulk buying, including with the MAT academies, during the financial year in order to obtain the best price available.

### **Better Income Generation**

Opportunities have been taken to bid for Capital Maintenance funds. We had a successful external fabric bid accepted.

### **Reviewing Controls and Managing Risks**

The Governing Body considers the risks and their management via the annual review of our Risk Register. It approves on an annual basis the Financial Regulations, other finance-related systems, procedures and policies.

There is full separation of duties in the finance department. A Responsible Officer undertakes system and accounting checks and reports findings to the MAT Directors.

### **Lessons learned**

Service Contracts are under annual review and the Academy has identified future contracts to have a best value and fitness for purpose review.

**Signed:** D. G. Harrison

**Name:** Dayle Harrison

**RLA Accounting Officer**

**Date:** 19.12.14