

# Value for Money Statement

**Organisation name: Southend High School for Boys Academy trust**

**Company number: 7485584**

**Year ended 31 August 2014**

I accept that as accounting officer of Southend High School for Boys 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 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.

Southend High School for Boys remains committed to transparent processes that ensure the economic, efficient and effective use of all the resources available to us. This occurs at every level within the organisation. Governors routinely review expenditure, have put in place processes to ensure best value on contracts and purchases, make comparisons with benchmark data, and indicate strategic priorities cognisant of the needs of the school and the impact of previous improvement programmes.

Since 2007 all major outcome indicators have improved – most notably at GCSE Level where significant Value Added has been accomplished with no additional resource. Governors also monitor areas of efficiency that can incur high costs; for example, staff absence levels (and the associated supply costs) are at extraordinarily low levels (less than one day per term on average per member of staff).

In December 2014, the school was rated 'outstanding' by Ofsted in every single category. This is despite receiving £3500 per pupil per year less than neighbouring mainstream secondary schools.

School leadership routinely focuses on the efficient and effective deployment of resources including measures of staff utilisation. Administrative and managerial staff ensure compliance with the highest standards of fiscal integrity: our systems are subject to internal, external and auditing checks – exceeding on every occasion the requirements to ensure the probity of use of public funds. The systems include regular comparative checks on frequent suppliers' contract prices, the use of consortium purchasing and extensive discount negotiation.

Income generation is also afforded an appropriate priority (and a dedicated governor subgroup); the school site is in regular use for up to 15 hours per day, 6½ days a week. Community use of our facilities and the sale of expertise to other providers, together supplement our formula income. Monthly financial reports, cash flow predictions and budget forecast models are all presented routinely to senior staff, the senior team and governors.

In the context of significant budget turbulence and austerity, without knowledge of actual income more than one year at a time, the school seeks to adopt effective, strategic direction with a full sense of the associated financial imperatives.

Benchmark data confirms that very few schools deliver better Value Added outcomes per £ of public expenditure than this school. It is unfortunate that funding models within the education service tend to maximise the income of the least efficient providers.

**Name:** Dr Robin Bevan  
**Academy Trust Accounting Officer**

**Date:** 18 Dec 2014