

# Value for Money Statement

**Organisation name: THE ST. ALDHELM'S ACADEMY**

**Company number: 6959707**

**Year ended 31 August 2014**

I accept that as accounting officer of THE ST. ALDHELM'S 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 Academy Trust is committed to:

## IMPROVING EDUCATIONAL OUTCOMES

The Academy continues to struggle to raise standards with significant falling rolls. Attainment in 2014 fell back on previous years and the Academy has been reliant on advances of funding from the EFA resulting in a Financial Notice to Improve. Once concerns were identified, significant changes have been implemented to improve attainment and financial stability. The priority has been to establish the correct staffing, teaching and learning environment and resources to ensure standards can be raised. Significant progress has been made in these areas.

### Targeted Improvement

The Academy Trust has employed a new Director of Finance and Operations from April 2014 and established a new finance team. A redundancy process was undertaken to reduce staffing levels. This saw a reduction of teaching staff from 38 to 36 FTE and Support staff from 65 to 51.5 FTE. The priority of this reorganisation was to establish an improved curriculum model, more targeted SEND support and to prioritise resources to teaching and learning.

### Focus on Individual Students

The Academy has reorganised the pastoral support systems for students with a new House System, Faculties and tutor support systems to bring an improved focus on individual students. A dedicated SEND centre has been established to support those students with special needs and those that are vulnerable. An alternative provision centre has been set up to ensure those at risk of disaffection are able to continue to mainstream education and achieve.

### Collaboration

The Academy has been seeking to work more closely with feeder schools and the Local Authority to ensure a good transition and work in partnership to address considerable weaknesses in English and Maths. This has seen a number of joint projects and sharing of resources such as the end of term play for one feeder being performed at the Academy Trust and supported by staff and students at the Academy in terms of set design and construction.

### Quantifying Improvements

Attainment predictions for August 2015 results are significantly up on the 2014 results. The Academy achieved a good audit, making considerable progress on the previous year. Progress has continued to be made against the agreed Financial Notice to Improve action Plan.

## Financial Governance and Oversight

Internal Audit functions were undertaken by an Accountancy Practice, reporting to Governors, with improvements noted and good progress made on recommendations. The Governors have undertaken finance training and brought in a financial specialist Governor to support and challenge, meeting with Academy staff monthly. Governors have conducted monthly meetings to review the finances and efficiency improvements.

### BETTER PURCHASING

A systematic review of all contracts has been started during 2014 and on-going. The focus is on value for money and fit for purpose. A number of consultancy contracts have been ended as they cannot evidence value for money and impact on attainment, such as the English support and Middle Leaders.

IT contracts have been reviewed and a number cancelled such as the intranet software and security software, not in use. A number of premises contracts have been re-tendered such as grounds, Fire Maintenance and Legionella control. The feed in tariff has been secured for solar panels on the premises.

### MAXIMISING INCOME GENERATION

Community use of the facilities has been a priority and this has resulted in significant increases in use by local community groups and agencies. With improved new buildings and facilities it has been possible to let these areas out more easily and efficiently. Staffing structures within Facilities has been made to enable more bookings.

The Academy has a clear development plan for publicity, increased incomes through catering, lettings and more efficient income systems for parents. Learning and Skills continues to be a significant user of the facilities with a financial income but also significant impact on the local community.

### REVIEWING CONTROLS AND MANAGING RISKS

The Finance Director has prepared and updates a comprehensive risk register at regular intervals. The Senior Leadership team has met regularly and finance is a regular review item. The EFA has conducted monthly review meetings to monitor financial improvements. The Academy has implemented a new Accounts system with improved budget monitoring.

### LESSONS LEARNED

The importance of financial monitoring, constant seeking for efficiencies and ensuring the focus of all activities is on achieving improved outcomes.

Signed.....

Name: A Bibby  
Academy Trust Accounting Officer Date: 29/12/2014

**Name:** Ms Amanda Bibby  
**Academy Trust Accounting Officer**

**Date:** 29 Dec 2014