

# Value for Money Statement

**Academy trust name: The Sweyne Park School**

**Academy trust company number: 8401607**

**Year ended 31 August 2014**

I accept that as accounting officer of The Sweyne Park 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.

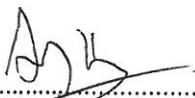
The Sweyne Park School is committed to ensuring the very best education for all the pupils in our care. To this end, ensuring the organisation is run efficiently to guarantee the best value for money for taxpayers is a key strategic priority.

The academy's Governing Body has an excellent track record of providing effective scrutiny and ensuring financial decisions are conducted with probity and are linked to clear educational outcomes. As a result, the school was one of the first in the country to be awarded FMSIS and the school has only ever set a balanced budget since the current Headteacher took up his post in 2006. Regular review and evaluation of decisions and practices, including use of benchmarking data, takes place at Governing Body meetings and this is a key part of our on-going improvement cycle. This is in addition to the external checks and controls provided through our accountants/auditing partners.

One key strength of the school has been in raising external income to enhance our offer to pupils. This has included lettings, sharing CPD expertise (the school currently holds Investors in People Gold status) and our work as a Training School. More recently, the Headteacher has become a National Leader of Education and the school generates income from its school-to-school support.

School spending is closely tied to School Development Plan priorities and our most recent OFSTED and outcome data over the last five years evidence successful value for money. This is currently graded by OFSTED as 'Outstanding'. On the back of our robust financial planning and excellent outcomes, the school was granted permission by the DfE to open a new Sixth Form in 2014.

Our three main priorities directly related to finance are: (1) ensuring we continue to generate external income in more austere times, (2) managing the transition to becoming an 11-18 school from September 2014, while ensuring standards continue to improve at 11-16, and (3) narrowing the gap between the attainment and progress of pupils on free school meals and other pupil cohorts through use of the Pupil Premium.

Signed: 

Name: Andy Harrison

Academy Trust Accounting Officer

Date: 10/12/14