



Best Value Statement 2025

Introduction

The Governing Body is accountable for the way in which the school's resources are allocated to meet the objectives set out in the school's development and improvement plans. Governors need to secure the best possible outcomes for pupils in the most efficient and cost-effective manner. This will lead to continuous improvement in the school's standards, achievements and services.

What is Best Value?

Governors will apply the four principles of **best value**:

- **Challenge** – is the school's performance high enough? Why and how is a service provided? Do we still need it? Can it be delivered differently? What do parents/carers want?
- **Compare** – How does the school's performance and financial performance compare with all schools? How does it compare with LA schools? How does it compare with similar schools?
- **Consult** – How does the school seek the views of stakeholders and other interested parties about the services the school provides?
- **Compete** – How does the school secure efficient services? Are the services of appropriate quality and economically sound?

The Governors' Approach

The Governors and school managers will apply the principles of *best value* when making decisions about:

- The allocation of resources to best promote the aims, vision and values of the school.
- The targeting of resources to best improve standards and the quality of provision.
- The use of resources to best support the various educational needs and wellbeing of all pupils.

Governors and school managers will:

- Make comparisons with other/similar schools using data provided by the LA and the DfE, eg, quality of teaching and learning, levels of expenditure.
- Challenge proposals, examining them for effectiveness, efficiency and cost eg school Improvement plans, target setting or site developments.
- Require suppliers to compete on grounds of cost and quality/suitability of services and products eg IT equipment, refurbishment.
- Consult individuals and organisations on quality/suitability of services we provide for parents/carers and pupils, and services we receive from providers.

This will apply in particular to the following areas:

- **Staffing** – Governors and school managers will deploy staff to provide best value in terms of quality of teaching and learning, adult : pupil ratio, curriculum management, specialist provision.
- **Use of premises** – Governors and school managers will consider the allocation and use of teaching areas, support areas and communal areas, to provide the best environment for teaching and learning, for support services and for communal access to central resources, eg. the library.
- **Use of resources** - Governors and school managers will deploy equipment, materials and services to provide pupils and staff with resources which support high quality teaching and learning.
- **Quality of teaching** - Governors and school managers will review the quality of curriculum provision and quality of teaching to provide parents and pupils with:
 1. A curriculum which meets the requirements of the National Curriculum, the LA agreed RE syllabus and is rooted in the school context.
 2. Teaching which builds on previous learning and has high expectations of children's achievement.
- **Quality of learning** - Governors and school managers will review the quality of children's learning, by cohort, class and group so that children, including those vulnerable to underachievement, are enabled to achieve national expectations of progress and attainment.

- **Purchasing** - Governors and school managers will develop procedures for assessing need, and obtaining goods and services which provide best value in terms of suitability, efficiency, time and cost. Measures already in place include;
 1. Competitive tendering procedures for goods and services above £5000
 2. Procedures for accepting “best value” quotes, which are not necessarily the cheapest (eg. suitability for purpose and quality of workmanship.
 3. Procedures which minimise administration time via the purchase of goods and services below £1000 direct from known, reliable suppliers. (eg. stationery, small equipment)
- **Pupils’ welfare and safeguarding** - Governors and school managers will review the quality of the school environment and the school ethos in order to provide a safe and supportive environment for learning.
- **Health and safety** - Governors and school managers will review the quality of the school premises and equipment, carrying out appropriate risk assessments in order to provide a safe working environment for pupils, staff and visitors.

Governors and school managers will not:

- Waste time and resources on investigating minor areas where few improvements can be achieved.
- Waste time and resources to make minimal savings in costs.
- Waste time and resources seeking tenders for minor suppliers and services.

The pursuit of minor improvements is not cost effective if the administration involves substantial time or costs. Time wasted on minor improvements or savings can also distract school leaders from more important or valuable pursuits.

Monitoring

The above areas will be monitored for best value by means of:

1. In-house monitoring by the headteacher and curriculum leaders, eg. lesson observations, work sampling.
2. Termly target setting meetings between the Headteacher and curriculum leaders
3. Termly pupil progress meetings.
4. Annual performance management of teachers and Headteacher
5. Annual budget planning
6. School Business Manager’s Income & Expenditure reports.
7. Regular visits by the LA Accounting Technician
8. Reports of the termly visits of the School Improvement Advisor
9. Analysis of school pupil performance data eg, SATs, standardised tests, in-house tracking data.
10. Comparison of school outcomes against LA and National and similar schools.
11. Analysis of LA financial data and benchmarking against similar schools
12. External inspection reports, eg. Ofsted, SIAMS
13. Governors’ Monitoring reports
14. Governors’ committee and FGB meetings
15. Governors’ Annual Performance review
16. Annual self-assessment against the School Financial Value Standards
17. Annual Safeguarding and Health & Safety audits.

Confirmation

This Best Value Statement has been discussed and approved at the Full Governing Body meeting on 15. 01 2025.

Signed by:

Chair of Governors P Bassindale Date 15.01 2025

Next Review: January 2027