

St Mary's R C Primary School

BEST VALUE STATEMENT 2022 - 2023

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 plans. Governors need to secure the best possible outcome for pupils, in the most efficient and effective way, at a reasonable cost. This will lead to continuous improvement in the school's achievements and services

The Governing Body is required to set targets to raise standards, is expected to provide a good quality public service and spend public money wisely. Schools are accountable for balancing costs (in terms of economy and efficiency) and effectiveness (in terms of their performance and the quality of what they provide) as required by the Best Value framework. To achieve this, schools need to demonstrate that they apply Best Value principles in arriving at decisions about all their activities, especially how the financial resources delegated to them are managed.

Best Value is a statutory duty to deliver services to clear standards, covering both cost and quality, the most effective, economic and efficient means available.

The extent to which the school is demonstrating Best Value principles effectively is likely to be evidenced by:

- a costed School Improvement Plan that clearly demonstrates how financial expenditure and resource allocation is intended to raise standards;
- effective management of the range of funding streams to which the school has access, in particular the development of a coherent approach to financial management that integrates Standards Fund grants, SRB funding, specialist school status funding, and any other grants or devolved funding with the school's delegated budget with the sole aim of raising standards;
- decisions about staffing structures and class organisation are based on evidence of need and clearly support the standards agenda;
- decisions about service level agreements and in-school service provision that are based on sound evidence of cost effectiveness and quality and clearly support the school's rationale for school improvement and raising standards;
- a planned strategy for school self-review that asks challenging questions about current standards of achievement, the quality of provision and the extent to which the leadership and management of the school is ensuring the highest possible standards;
- an inclusive and responsive consultation process.

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 want?
- **Compare** - How does the school's pupil 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 about the services the school provides?
- **Compete** - How does the school secure efficient and effective services? Are services of appropriate quality, economic?

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 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 of all pupils.

Governors, and the school managers, will:

- make comparisons with other/similar schools using data provided by the LA and the Government, e.g. RAISE, quality of teaching & learning, levels of expenditure, Audit Commission's Benchmarking website
- challenge proposals, examining them for effectiveness, efficiency, and cost, e.g. setting of annual pupil achievement targets, expansion to 3-form entry,
- require suppliers to compete on grounds of cost, and quality/suitability of services/products/backup, e.g. provision of computer suite, redecoration
- consult individuals and organisations on quality/suitability of service we provide to parents and pupils, and services we receive from providers, e.g. Pupil reports and bought in services.

This will apply in particular to:

- staffing
- use of premises
- use of resources
- quality of teaching
- quality of learning
- purchasing
- pupils' welfare
- health and safety.

Governors and school managers:

- will not waste time and resources on investigating minor areas where few improvements can be achieved
- will not waste time and resources to make minor savings in costs
- will not waste time and resources by seeking tenders for minor supplies and services.

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

Staffing

Governors and school managers will deploy staff to provide best value in terms of quality of teaching, quality of learning, adult-pupil ratio, and curriculum management.

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 & learning, for support services, and for communal access to central resources, e.g. the library.

Use of Resources

Governors and school managers will deploy equipment, materials and services to provide pupils and staff with resources which support quality of teaching and quality of learning.

Teaching

Governors and school managers will review the quality of curriculum provision and quality of teaching, to provide parents and pupils with:

- a curriculum which meets the requirements of the National Curriculum, Primary National Strategy, Key Stage 3 Strategy, the LA Agreed RE Syllabus, and the needs of pupils
- teaching which builds on previous learning and has high expectations of children's achievement.

Learning

Governors and school managers will review the quality of children's learning, by cohort, class and group, to provide teaching which enables children to achieve nationally expected progress, e.g. setting of annual pupil achievement targets, 2 national curriculum levels between Years 3 and 6.

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:

- competitive contract procedures in line with the councils procedures
- procedures for accepting "best value" quotes, which are not necessarily the cheapest (e.g. suitability for purpose and quality of workmanship)
- procedures which minimise office time by the purchase of goods or services under £1000 direct from known, reliable suppliers (e.g. stationery, small equipment).

Pupils' Welfare

Governors and school managers will review the quality of the school environment and the school ethos, in order to provide a supportive environment conducive to learning and recreation.

Health & Safety

Governors and school managers will review the quality of the school environment and equipment, carrying out risk assessments where appropriate, in order to provide a safe working environment for pupils, staff and visitors.

Monitoring

These areas will be monitored for best value by:

1. In-house monitoring by the Head Teacher and curriculum managers, e.g. classroom practice, work sampling
2. Termly target setting meetings between the Head Teacher and curriculum managers
3. Annual Performance Management
4. Annual Budget Planning
5. Head Teacher's monthly financial review
6. Analysis of school pupil performance data, e.g. SATs results, standardised test results, 11+ results against all schools, LA schools, similar schools
7. Analysis of LA pupil performance data
8. Analysis of LA financial data, e.g. AGRESSO reports, against bench mark data for all schools, LA schools, similar schools
9. Analysis of DFE pupil performance data, e.g. RAISE
10. Ofsted Inspection reports
11. Governors' termly classroom observations
12. Governors' termly committee meetings
13. Governors' full termly meetings
14. Governors' Annual Finance Review
15. Governors' Annual SATs Target Setting Meeting
16. Governors' Annual Development Plan Meeting

In the next three years the Governing Body will:

- Hold an annual performance plan meeting to set targets for improving pupil achievement.
- Hold an annual development plan meeting.
- Discuss "Best Value" at each Autumn Term meeting of the Finance Committee.
- Review their "Best Value" statement at each Spring Term meeting and submit with Annual Budget Plan to LA.
- Consider best value when arranging internal and external contracts and seek professional advice when entering into building / ICT or leasing contracts

Confirmation the Best Value Statement in respect of St Mary's R C Primary School has been discussed by the Governing Body

Chair of Governors: M Aston

Date: 15/02/2022

Head Teacher: Ms M Garvey

Date: 15/02/2022

Agreed at the Resources Committee on:

15/02/2022