



Best Value Statement

Review Period: Annual

Status: Statutory

Next review date: Summer 24

Introduction

The Governing Body is accountable for the way in which the School's resources are allocated to meet any objectives set out. 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

Definition of "Best Value"

Governors will apply the four principles of "Best Value":

- **Challenge** - Is the School's performance good enough? Why and how are services provided? Does the School still need them? Can the service be delivered differently? What do parents want?
- **Compare** - How does the School's pupil and financial performances compare with similar schools? How does it compare with other Local Authority (LA) schools?
- **Consult** - How does the School seek the views of stakeholders about the services which the School provides?
- **Compete** - How does the School secure efficient and effective services? Are services of appropriate quality and economic?

The Governors' and School Managers' Approach

The Governors and School Managers will apply the principles of "Best Value" when making decisions about:

- the best allocation of resources to promote the aims and values of the School
- the best targeting of resources to improve standards and the quality of provision
- the best use of resources to support the various educational needs of all pupils

Governors and the School Managers will:

- make comparisons with similar schools using data provided by the LA and the Department for Education (DfE)
- challenge proposals, examining them for effectiveness, efficiency and cost
- require suppliers to compete on grounds of cost and quality/suitability of services/products/backup,
- consult individuals and organisations on quality/suitability of the service which the School provides to parents and pupils and services which the School receives from providers

Governors and School Managers will not waste time and resources:

- on investigating minor areas where few improvements can be achieved
- on making minor savings in costs
- 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.

This will apply in particular to:

a) 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.

b) 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.

c) 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.

d) Teaching

Governors and School Managers will review the quality of curriculum provision and quality of teaching and provide parents and pupils with:

- a curriculum which meets the requirements of the National Curriculum, applicable national strategies and the needs of the pupils
- teaching which builds on previous learning and has high expectations for children's achievements

e) Learning

Governors and School Managers will review the quality of children's learning, by class and group, to provide teaching which enables children to achieve.

f) 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 purchasing procedures (e.g. for goods and services above £3,000)
- 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 through the purchase of goods or services under £1000 direct from known, reliable suppliers (e.g. stationery, computer consumables, small equipment)
- Consider "Best Value" when arranging internal and external redecoration contracts
- Employ a maintenance consultant to advise on maintenance of the School's buildings
- Obtain tenders and a consultant's advice on any large scale refurbishment of the premises
- Obtain annual asset management surveys

g) Pupils' Welfare

Governors and School Managers will review the quality of the School environment in order to provide conditions conducive to learning and recreation.

h) Health & Safety

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

i) Monitoring

The above areas will be monitored for "Best Value by:

Ongoing:

- In-house monitoring by the Headteacher and Curriculum Managers, e.g. classroom practice, work sampling

Monthly

- Financial Review

Termly:

Governors' classroom observations

- Full meetings of the Governing Body

Annually:

- Performance Management
- Budget Planning
- Visits by the link finance Governor
- Analysis of school pupil performance data.
- Analysis of LA financial data, where feasible against benchmark data for similar schools if feasible
- Analysis of DfE pupil performance data
- Governors' Annual Finance Review

When applicable

- Ofsted Inspection reports

Governors' Duties

The Governing Body shall discuss and review the "Best Value" Statement annually.

Confirmation of the Best Value Statement in respect of Sunnydown School has been discussed by the Governing Body.