Finance, Premises and Personnel
14.10.26

Signed .....

Governors Best Value Statement 2026

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 improvement 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

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 and 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, 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 service we provide to parents and pupils, and services we receive from providers.

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, and for support services.

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:

- LA Agreed RE Syllabus, National Curriculum, Health & Relationships 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.

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 tendering procedures
- procedures for accepting "best value" quotes, which are not necessarily the cheapest.

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:

- In-house monitoring by the Headteacher, Office Manager and curriculum managers
- Annual Budget Planning
- Headteacher's and Office Manager's termly financial review
- Regular visits by the LA Finance Officer (at least 6 times per financial year)
- Analysis of school pupil performance data, e.g., Juniper, LA data analysis, Inspection Data Report
- Analysis of LA financial data as may
- Ofsted Inspection Reports
- Governors' termly committee meetings and full Governors up to twice termly meetings.
- DfE Benchmarking Reports

Procedure to Ensure Best Value for Goods and Services

- **Purpose**
  - To find ways to buy goods or services (non-staff expenditure) recommended by the DfE
  - To get value for money
  - To comply with DCC buying procedures and UK procurement law
- **Responsibilities**
  The current Financial Delegation document approved by the Finance Premises and Personnel committee provides full details of authorized persons and associated limits.
- **Procedure**
  A non-staff expenditure is identified and the following procedure followed,
  1. Refer to the current Financial Delegation document as required
  2. Visit the DFE approved framework for achieving best value https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/procurement-advice-for-governing-boards/getting-the-best-value-from-schools-non-staff-spend
  3. Rationalise DfE recommendations against any additional quoted obtained locally and select best value solution.

Lisa Kemp
Reviewed autumn 2026
To be reviewed autumn 2027