

BEST VALUE STATEMENT

School: Broad Square Primary school

Date: March 2024

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.

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:

- Allocating resources to best promote the aims and values of the school.
- Targeting resources to best improve standards and the quality of provision.
- Using resources to best support the various educational needs of all pupils.
- The school is a PFI school so has limited control over aspects of finance: where the school has control governors and school managers will consult individuals and organisations on quality/suitability of services provided to parents and pupils, and services received from providers.

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.

Governors and school managers will not waste time and resources:

- On investigating minor areas where few improvements can be achieved
- To make 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:

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.

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 and learning

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, EYFS and the needs of pupils
- teaching which builds on previous learning and has high expectations of children's achievement
- teaching that supports children to become the best they can be
- teaching which enables children to achieve nationally expected progress.

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 (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 by the purchase of goods or services under **£3000** 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 to provide a safe working environment for pupils, staff and visitors and comply with government and local regulations.

Monitoring

These areas will be monitored for best value by:

- In-house monitoring by the Head teacher and curriculum managers
- Target setting meetings between the Head teacher and curriculum managers
- Annual performance management
- Annual budget planning
- Head teacher's half termly financial review
- Termly visits by the LSIP
- Termly visits by the SIL Finance Budget Officer
- Analysis of school pupil performance data, benchmarked against LA and national data
- Analysis of LA financial data, e.g. DfE benchmark reports, against benchmark data for all schools, LA schools, similar schools
- Ofsted Inspection reports
- Governors' termly committee meetings
- Governors' annual finance review
- School Self Evaluation (SEF)

In the next three years the Governing Body will:

- Hold an annual development plan meeting.
- Review the "Best Value" statement regularly.
- Consider best value when arranging internal and external redecoration contracts, where these are within the school's remit
- Obtain tenders and a consultant's advice on any large scale refurbishment of the premises or building projects which are within the school's remit
- Investigate the opportunities of obtaining external grant funding
- Implement the findings of LA/SIL Audit Report(s)

Signed by: **R. Morgan**

Chair of Governors:

Date: March 24 : next review Spring 26

Head Teacher: **C. Foden**