

VILLAGE INFANTS SCHOOL BEST VALUE STATEMENT

The Governors of Village Infants School are committed to achieving Best Value in all decisions made. We use the principles of Best Value as they apply to securing continuous improvement in the school and will:

- regularly review the functions of the school, challenging how and why services are provided and setting targets and performance indicators for improvement;
- monitor outcomes and compare performance with similar schools and within the school;
- consult appropriate stakeholders before major decisions are made; and
- promote fair competition through quotations and tenders to ensure that goods and services are secured in the most economic, efficient and effective way.
- We will strive to ensure that the school is using its resources effectively to meet the needs of pupils.

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 Senior Leadership Team 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 Senior Leadership Team, will:

- make comparisons with other/similar schools using data provided by the LA and the Government, e.g. ASP [Analysis School Performance] and School Financial Benchmarking Service
- challenge proposals, examining them for effectiveness, efficiency, and cost, e.g. setting of annual pupil achievement targets
- require suppliers to compete on grounds of cost, and quality/suitability of services/products/backup, e.g. refurbishments, structural alterations, 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, OFSTED etc

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 Senior Leadership Team

- 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 Senior Leadership Team 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 Senior Leadership Team 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 Senior Leadership Team 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 Senior Leadership Team 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 Framework and needs of the pupils
- teaching which builds on previous learning and has high expectations of children's achievement

Learning

Governors and Senior Leadership Team 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 target

Purchasing

Governors and Senior Leadership Team 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 £5,000)
- 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 £1000 direct from known, reliable suppliers (e.g. stationery, small equipment)

Pupils' Welfare

Governors and Senior Leadership Team 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 Senior Leadership Team 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 and curriculum managers, e.g. classroom practice, work sampling
- Annual Performance Management
- Pupil Progress Meetings to review targets set between the Headteacher and curriculum managers and middle leaders
- Annual Budget Planning
- Termly Finance Meetings
- Analysis's of school pupil performance data, e.g. SATs results, standardised test results, LA schools, similar schools
- Analysis of RM financial data, e.g. RM reports, against bench mark data for all schools, LA schools, similar schools
- Analysis's of LA pupil performance data
- OFSTED Inspection reports
- Analysis of DCSF pupil performance data, e.g. ASP
- Governors' visits to school
- Governors' termly Quality of Education meetings.
- Governors' full termly meetings.
- Governors' Annual Finance Review