

Westhouses Primary School

Best Values policy



Revision History

REVISION	DATE	NAME	DESCRIPTION
1.0	01.07.2021	Juliette Whitby/Amy Flint	
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Approval History

REVISION	APPROVAL DATE	APPROVED BY	SIGNED
1.0	01.07.2021	Simon Taylor	
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Introduction

The governing body is accountable for the way in which a School's resources are allocated to meet the objectives set out in the school's development plans. Governors must endeavour 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 other 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 school leaders, will:

- make comparisons with other/similar schools using data provided by the LA and the Government, e.g., quality of teaching & learning, levels of expenditure
- 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, wellbeing

Staffing

Governors and school leaders 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 staff will consider the allocation and use of teaching areas, support areas and communal areas.

Use of Resources

Governors and school staff 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 staff 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, National Literacy Strategy and National Numeracy 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 staff will review the quality of children's learning, by cohort, class and group, to provide teaching which enables children to achieve well.

Purchasing

Governors and school leaders 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 (as per the financial regulations)
- procedures for accepting "best value" quotes, which are not necessarily the cheapest (e.g. suitability for purpose and quality of workmanship)
- Annually reviewing school performance using the School Financial Value Standards document (SFVS)

Pupils' Welfare

Governors and school leaders 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 leaders 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 Headteacher, School Business Team and curriculum managers, e.g. classroom practice, work sampling
2. Half-termly target setting meetings
3. Annual Performance Management
4. Annual Budget Planning
5. Headteacher's regular financial review
6. Regular visits by the LA Finance Officer
7. Analysis of school pupil performance data, e.g. SATs results, standardised test results against LA schools and similar schools
8. Analysis of DfES pupil performance data

- 9.** Governors' classroom observations
- 10.** Governors' committee meetings
- 11.** Governors' full termly meetings
- 12.** Governors' budget planning meetings

Review

This policy will be reviewed annually as per audit requirements for financial regulations.