

Thomas A Becket Infant School

BEST VALUE STATEMENT 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:

- 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; and
- 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, e.g. RAISE, quality of teaching & learning, levels of expenditure;
- Challenge proposals, examining them for effectiveness, efficiency, and cost, e.g. setting of annual pupil achievement targets, provision of school based nursery etc.;
- Require suppliers to compete on grounds of cost, and quality/suitability of services/products/backup, e.g. provision of computer suite, redecoration; and
- Consult individuals and organisations on quality/suitability of service we provide to parents and pupils, and services we receive from providers, e.g. Sex and Relationships Education, pupil reports, assigned inspector, Ofsted, maintenance consultant, LA Energy Group.

This will apply in particular to:

- Staffing;
- Use of premises;
- Use of resources;
- Quality of teaching;
- Quality of learning;
- Purchasing;
- Pupils' welfare; and
- 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; and
- 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, 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

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, Primary National Strategy, the LA Agreed RE Syllabus, and the needs of pupils; and
- 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 (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); and
- 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 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:

1. In-house monitoring by the Headteacher, Deputy Head, Assistant Head and Curriculum Leaders e.g. classroom practice, work sampling;
2. Termly target setting or review meetings between the Headteacher/ Deputy Head and Assistant Head;
3. Annual Appraisal;
4. Annual Budget Planning;
5. Monthly financial review by Chair of FRG (Finance & Resources Group) & School Business Manager;
6. Visits by the Governors’ Assigned School Improvement Consultant;
7. Liaison and visits by the LA Finance Adviser;
8. Analysis of School pupil performance data, e.g. SATs results, standardised test results, results against all schools, LA schools, similar schools;
9. Analysis of LA pupil performance data e.g. E.Pod Data;
10. Analysis of LA financial data, e.g., benchmark data for all schools, LA schools, similar schools;
11. Analysis of DfE pupil performance data, e.g. RAISE online;
12. Ofsted Inspection reports;
13. Governors’ monitoring programme;
14. Governors’ working group meetings;
15. Governors’ full termly meetings;
16. Governors’ Annual Finance Review;
17. Governors’ Annual SATs Target Setting Meeting;
18. Governors’ Annual Development Plan Meeting; and
19. Governors’ reporting to parents via termly newsletter / website etc.

In the next three years, the Governing Body will:

- Hold an annual performance plan meeting to set targets for improving pupil achievement;
- Hold an annual development plan meeting;
- Discuss “Best Value” at each Spring Term meeting of the Finance & Resources Group;
- Review their “Best Value” statement at each Spring Term meeting;
- Consider best value when arranging internal and external redecoration contracts and
- Work with the LA to agree a Premises Development Plan for the maintenance and development of the School’s premises.

Confirmation the Best Value Statement in respect of Thomas A Becket Infant School has been discussed by the Governing Body

Signed by:

Chair of Governors: Date:

Head Teacher: Date:

Delegation Agreed at the Governing Body Meeting on: 15th January 2024. Minute Reference:

