

SHAMBLEHURST PRIMARY SCHOOL

BEST VALUE STATEMENT

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Last Review date: November 2020

Next Review date: November 2021

Review by: Full Governing Body (Governors)

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 Improvement Plan. 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 Local Authority (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 the school managers, will:

- adopt the Scheme for Financial Management of Schools and make this available to all staff
- make comparisons with other/similar schools using data provided by the LA and the Government, e.g. FFT Aspire, moderation, levels of expenditure, benchmarking (this has been impacted on by COVID)
- challenge proposals, examining them for effectiveness, efficiency, and cost, e.g. setting of annual pupil achievement targets, increasing pupil numbers
- require suppliers to compete on grounds of cost, and quality/suitability of services/products/backup, e.g. provision of computer suite, 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

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, skills analysis, cost effectiveness 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, e.g. the library.

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, 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 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 £10,000)
- 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 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, curriculum teams and SMT e.g. classroom practice, work sampling, durability
2. Annual Performance Management (eg training evaluation)
3. Annual budget planning and revision
4. Headteacher and Admin Manager monthly budget review, including salary payments
5. Reviewing examples of good practice identified by the LA and adopting procedures, as appropriate
6. Termly visits by the Learning and Leadership Partner (LLP)
7. Analysis of school pupil performance data, e.g. SATs and standardised test results against Local Authority and similar schools
8. Analysis of LA pupil performance data
9. Annual analysis of financial data, e.g. against bench mark data for Local Authority and similar schools
10. Analysis of DfE pupil performance data, e.g. FFT Aspire
11. Ofsted Inspection reports
12. Governors' classroom observations (COVID permitting)
13. Governors' monthly reviewing budget
14. Governors' full termly meetings – these are often more frequent

In the next three years the Governing Body will:

- review their “Best Value” statement at the annual budget setting meeting and attach it to the minutes.
- consider best value when arranging internal and external redecoration contracts.
- obtain tenders on any large scale refurbishment of the premises.
- Obtain annual assessment management surveys.

Confirmation the Best Value Statement in respect of Shamblehurst Primary School has been discussed by the Governing Body.