

MY SCHOOLS TOGETHER

BEST VALUE STATEMENT POLICY

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 both school's achievements and services

What Is Best Value?

Governors will apply the four principles of *best value*:

- **Challenge** - Is each 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 each school's pupil performance and financial performance compare with all schools? How does it compare with other Oldham schools? How does it compare with similar schools?
- **Consult** - How does each school seek the views of stakeholders about the services each school provides?
- **Compete** - How does each school secure efficient and effective services? Are services of appropriate quality, economic?

The Governors' Approach

The Governors and school managers of the federation will apply the principles of *best value* when making decisions about:

- the allocation of resources to best promote the aims and values of each 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 of the federation, will:

- make comparisons with other/similar schools using data provided by Oldham LA and the Government, e.g. ASP (Analyse School Performance), quality of teaching & learning, levels of expenditure
- challenge proposals, examining them for effectiveness, efficiency, and cost, e.g. setting of annual pupil achievement targets, expansion of the federation,
- 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. Sex and Relationships Education, pupil reports, SIP, 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
- health and safety

Governors and school managers of the federation:

- 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 SLT 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 SLT 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 SLT 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 SLT 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 SLT 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, based on a minimum of 2 national curriculum levels between Years 3 and 6

Purchasing

Governors and SLT 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 SLT 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 SLT 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 Executive Headteacher & Heads of Schools and curriculum managers, e.g. classroom practice, work sampling
2. Annual Performance Management
3. Annual Budget Planning
4. Executive Headteacher & Heads of Schools’ monthly financial review
5. Termly Governors’ Business Manager Reports
6. Bi-termly visits by the LA Finance Adviser
7. Analyses of school pupil performance data, e.g. SATs results, standardised test results, compared with similar pupils in similar schools
8. Analysis’s of LA pupil performance data
9. Analysis of LA financial data, e.g. Benchmark data for all schools, LA schools, similar schools
10. Analysis of pupil performance data e.g. ASP
11. OFSTED Inspection reports
12. Governors’ school visits
13. Governors’ committee meetings
14. Full Governors Body Meetings
15. Governors’ Finance Committee Meetings
16. Governors’ Annual SATs Target Setting Meeting
17. Governors’ Annual Development Plan Meeting

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