

Orchard Community Primary School



Best Value Statement

This policy was approved by the Governing Body of Orchard Primary School at their meeting on.....

Signed..... Chair of Governors

Version	Date	Author	Reason for Change
0.1	9/2018	FS	New Policy
0.2	9/2021	FS	Reviewed

Review Frequency	Next Review Date
Every 3 years	9/2024

INTRODUCTION & RATIONALE

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 and staff of Orchard Primary School need to secure the best possible outcomes for pupils, in the most efficient and effective way, and are therefore committed to achieving Best Value in all decisions made.

WHAT IS BEST VALUE?

The principles of Best Value are known familiarly as the Four Cs:

Challenge - why, how and by whom an activity/service is carried out; is the school's performance high enough? What do parents want?

Compare - performance against other schools locally and nationally, and between parts of each school;

Consult - involving stakeholders, especially pupils and parents; and

Compete - as a means of securing efficient and effective services. Are services of appropriate quality, economic?

The Four Cs can be considered separately for the sake of clarity. However, as schools make decisions, the principles are often applied in combination.

We use the principles of Best Value as they apply to securing continuous improvement in this 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;
- allocate and target resources to best promote the aims and values of the school and to improve standards and the quality of provision
- use resources to best support the various educational needs of all pupils.

We will submit our Best Value statement with the annual budget plan. The progress of the annual budget plan and the Best Value statement will be monitored with the school improvement plan in order to determine the extent of continuous improvement.

Below are examples of how we ensure 'Best Value' is achieved at Orchard. 'Best Value' is underpinned in all aspects of school life.

FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT

- Benchmarking against similar schools in all aspects of financial expenditure per pupil (e.g. teaching costs, ICT resources, energy, sewerage and water etc.) and, where necessary, investigating how we can change aspects to achieve VfM.
- Investigating and assessing VfM when requiring services – recognising that best price does not always mean best value for money, investigating prices for staff insurance cover, supply staff agencies best prices etc.
- Investigating financial services including banking and interest rates where necessary.

TEACHING AND CARE OF PUPILS

- Using RAISE online and other assessment information to assess own performance and against local and national perspectives

- Ensuring pupil class sizes are minimised as far as possible and there is also a good coverage of classroom support adults to cater for all our children's needs.
- Consistently challenging teaching standards and where appropriate, lead development and improvement throughout the school.
- Embrace new initiatives and assess their impact on raising teaching and learning in the school without affecting current good practice.
- Consulting with the pupils to act on their responses and maintain positive feeling at school.
- Review the quality of the school environment and equipment, carrying out risk assessments where appropriate, in order to provide a safe working environment.

LEADERSHIP, MANAGEMENT AND STAFFING

- Job descriptions, personnel and recruitment match the school's needs and areas for development .
- Networking with other schools to provide extra specialism in teaching / sharing resources.

PARENTS

- We provide a parental questionnaire each year and act, where possible, on any suggestions for improvement.
- We have many fundraising and social events in order to ensure parents know they are a main part of the school and to attract new parents.

RESOURCES & PURCHASING

- When ordering goods, staff have access to a range of suppliers catalogues / online catalogues to buy 'best value' products.
- Staff know the procedure for ordering resources and the systems of checking stock and replacing when necessary are adhered to unless a bulk order at a cheaper price is applicable.
- Purchasing rather than leasing or vice versa.
- Seeking competitive tendering procedures for goods and services above £5000
- Adopt procedures which minimise office time by the purchase of goods or services under £1000 direct from known, reliable suppliers (e.g. stationery, small equipment).
- Deploy equipment, materials and services to provide pupils and staff with resources which support quality of teaching and quality of learning.

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.
- Termly target setting meetings between the Headteacher and class teachers
- Annual Appraisal/Performance Management Meetings
- Annual Budget Planning
- Monthly financial reviews
- Visits by the LA School Improvement Partner
- Analysis of school pupil performance data against all school, LA schools and similar schools
- Analysis of LA pupil performance data e.g. graph packs
- Analysis of LA financial data
- Analysis of DfE pupil performance data e.g. Raiseonline
- Ofsted Inspection Reports
- Governor's committee meetings, monitoring visits, full termly meetings, financial review meetings.

In conclusion, we operate Best Value in all aspects of school life and the continual examination of these aspects ensure 'Value for Money' is in the ethos of Orchard.