

## Best Value Statement 2011

### **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 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 Senior Leadership Team 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 different learning needs of all pupils.

Governors, and the Senior Leadership Team, will:

- Make comparisons with other/similar schools using data provided by the LA and the Government, e.g. B Square, Caspa, quality of teaching & learning, level of expenditure
- Challenge proposals, examining them for effectiveness, efficiency, and cost, e.g. the setting of annual pupil achievement targets
- Require suppliers to compete on grounds of cost, and quality/suitability of services/products/backup, e.g. provision of computers, Tunstall
- Consult individuals and organisations on quality/suitability of service we provide to parents and pupils, and services we receive from providers, e.g. pupils' reports, Ofsted, Parent Partnership, Our Voice, Social Care, SaLT, Therapists, Nurses

This will apply in particular to:

- staffing
- use of premises
- use of resources
- quality of teaching
- quality of learning
- purchasing
- pupil welfare

### Governors and Senior Leadership Team

- 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 Senior Leadership Team 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 Senior Leadership Team will consider the allocation and use of teaching areas, support areas and communal areas, to provide the best environment for learning and teaching, for support services, and for communal access to central resources, e.g. the library.

### **Use of Resources**

Governors and Senior Leadership Team 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 Senior Leadership Team 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, EYFS strategy, the LA agreed RE syllabus, and the needs of pupils
- Teaching which builds on previous learning and has high expectations of every pupil's achievement.

### **Learning**

Governors and Senior Leadership Team will review the quality of pupils' learning, by cohort, class and group, to provide teaching which enables pupils to achieve nationally expected progress, e.g. setting of annual pupil achievement targets.

### **Purchasing**

Governors and Senior Leadership Team 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 minimize office time by the purchase of goods or services under £1000 direct from known, reliable suppliers (e.g. stationery, small equipment).

### **Pupil's Welfare**

Governors and Senior Leadership Team 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 Senior Leadership Team 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, therapists and visitors.

**Monitoring**

These areas will be monitored for best value by:

1. In-house monitoring by the Head Teacher and Curriculum Leaders, e.g. classroom practice, work sampling.
2. Individual twice a year target setting meetings between the member of the Senior Leadership Team responsible for the data and teachers.
3. Annual Performance Management.
4. Annual Budget Planning.
5. Head Teacher's monthly financial review.
6. Regular visits from a LA assigned Adviser.
7. Quarterly reports submitted to LA Finance Adviser.
8. Analysis of school pupil performance data, e.g. B Squared, Caspa, similar schools.
9. Analysis of LA financial data, e.g. against bench mark data for all schools, LA schools, similar schools.
10. Analysis of DCF pupil performance data, e.g. National Progression Guidance for special schools, Ofsted Monitoring Reports.
11. Ofsted Inspection reports.
12. Governors' classroom observations.
13. Governors' termly committee meetings.
14. Governors' full termly meetings.
15. Governors' Annual Finance Review.

In the next three years the Governing Body will:

- Monitor the School Development Plan.
- Discuss "Best Value" at each Autumn Term meeting of the Finance Committee.
- Review their "Best Value" statement at each Spring Term meeting
- Consider best value when arranging internal and external building and redecoration contacts
- Obtain tenders and a consultant's advice on large scale changes of premises.

**Confirmation the Best Value Statement in respect of Kingsdown School has been discussed by the Governing Body**

Signed by:

Chair of Governors:  ..... Date: 8. 11. 11

Head Teacher:  ..... Date: 16. 11. 11

Agreed at the Governing Body Meeting on: 8. 11. 11