

# **St Matthew's Church of England Primary School**



## **Best Value Statement**

## 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.
- allocated to secure the best possible outcome for pupils, in the most efficient and effective way, at a reasonable cost.
- allocated to 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?*

## Governors' of St Matthews Church of England Primary School Approach

The Governors and School Leadership Team will apply the principles of best value as outlined in Sandwell MBC's Schools Funding Scheme when making decisions about:

- the allocation of resources to best promotes 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, School Leadership Team and School Staff, will:

- make comparisons with other/similar schools using data provided by the LA and the Government, e.g. quality of teaching & learning and levels of expenditure
- challenge proposals, examining them for effectiveness, efficiency, and cost, e.g. setting of annual pupil achievement targets
- require suppliers to compete on grounds of cost, quality and suitability of

- services/products.
- consult individuals and organisations on quality and suitability of service provided to parents and pupils and services we receive from providers, e.g. pupil reports, assigned inspector, OFSTED, maintenance consultant, LA appointed energy suppliers

This will apply in particular to:

- staffing
- use of accommodation
- use of resources
- purchasing
- quality of teaching
- quality of learning
- pupils' welfare
- health and safety

Governors and SLT:

- 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.

### **Accommodation**

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.

### **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:

- adopting the LA Processes to achieve Best Value.
- adopting the LA financial regulations and guidance
- agreeing to the limits for competitive tendering procedures (e.g. for goods and services above £1,000)
- reviewing and adhering to expenditure limits on an annual basis.
- maintaining a schedule of decisions made and the reasons why on a schedule as agreed by Governors
- procedures which minimise office time by the purchase of goods or services under £1,000 direct from known, reliable suppliers (e.g. stationery, small equipment) as per the process of checking on an annual basis these suppliers are still the most reliable and cost effective.

## **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, 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. This process is informed by extensive use of performance data to monitor pupil's performance against national benchmarks.

## **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. The results of which will be reflected in the School Improvement Plan.

## **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. This will be based on advice from the LA and the formal adoption of their recommendations.

## **How will Best Value be achieved?**

Governors and SLT will review the process of Best Value by:

- Annually reviewing of the School Improvement Plan.
- Discussing "Best Value" at each Autumn Term meeting of the Resources Committee.
- Reviewing this "Best Value" statement annually at the summer meeting of the Resources Committee.

- Consider best value when arranging internal and external redecoration contracts.
- Seeking advice on maintenance of the school site from outside specialists.
- Following the agreed tendering process and ensuring evidence is maintained in the Resources Committee or Full Governing Body minutes.
- Obtaining and reviewing the asset management survey of the site to ensure all work is identified financial regulations as attached are followed.
- Ensuring SLT challenge curriculum managers and other link managers through the budget planning process.

## **Monitoring**

These areas will be monitored for best value by:

1. The Head teacher and the SLT e.g. classroom practice, work sampling.
2. Termly Pupil Progress Meetings
3. Annual appraisal review and target setting
4. Termly visits by the SIA (School Improvement Advisor)
5. Analysis's of school pupil performance data.
6. Analysis's of LA pupil performance data.
7. Analysis of DfE pupil performance data.
8. OFSTED Inspection reports
9. Governors' termly committee meetings
10. Governing Body meetings
11. Annual Target Setting Meeting
12. Termly review of the SIP (School Improvement Plan)
13. Report to Parents
14. Budget Planning and Forecasting over three years
15. Head teacher's monthly financial review
16. Presentation of termly monitoring to the Resources Committee
17. Submission of termly reports to the LA Strategic Finance Unit
18. Annual Benchmarking of financial data
19. Governors' review of the closure of the accounts