

Best Value Statement

This statement confirms the best value principles adopted by the Governors and school managers. Best value will be included annually as an agenda item at the Spring Term meeting of the full Governing body, when the Best Value statement will be reviewed and signed by the Headteacher and Chair of Governors.

Best value goes beyond the traditional *value for money* principles of economy, efficiency and effectiveness. Best value is about continually reviewing, challenging and improving the use of resources in a way that leads to:

- The raising of education standards
- Continuous improvement

Best value supports and influences all management and decision-making activities, including:

Target setting	Managing implementation
Planning for improvement	Monitoring and evaluating the performance of the school
Allocating resources to priorities	Managing the performance of staff
Improving the school environment to ensure it is safe and fit for purpose	

Best value principles involve the school and governors reviewing and questioning:

- School performance
- Routines
- Processes

Governors and school managers will **challenge** assumptions:

- Regularly review and question performance, school routines and processes to ensure they are in line with the School Development Plan.
- Consider if there are better ways to achieve the desired results and if current methods are the most economical, efficient and effective.
- Consider who the stakeholders are and if school aims are in their best interests.
- Question whether procedures are competitive compared with possible alternatives.

Governors and school managers will **compare** performance to judge how well they are using resources to meet their educational aims. The analysis of performance data, backed by appropriate improvement actions, is crucial to successful best value management.

- Consider what the school is achieving, compared with what should be achieved and how this compares with similar schools.
- Review whether the school is a relatively high/low performer and why this should be.
- Compare whether all subjects and classes are performing consistently well and investigate any discrepancies.
- Use Dorset and/or national benchmarking data to compare costs. Any significant differences will be investigated and reported to Governors meetings.

- Link the results of all comparisons to the School Development Plan when forming an action plan to bring performance up to the level of the best.

Gathering local views and forging purposeful partnerships with outside bodies can not only support continuous improvement, but also secure efficient and effective services. At various points in the school's management cycle, the governors and school managers will **consult**, as appropriate, with the following stakeholders:

Pupils	Parents	Governors
Teaching and support staff	Professional associations	The LA and Diocese
The local community	Neighbouring schools	Suppliers
Employers	Early years development of children partnerships	
Schools and colleges that are destinations for leavers		

The final best value principle is **compete**. Being competitive means making sure the school is providing or buying the appropriate service at the best possible price. Governors and school will:

- Promote fair competition through quotations and tenders to ensure that goods and services are secured in the most economic, efficient and effective way
- Review financial administration procedures, including competitive tendering, to ensure the system is appropriate.
- Question historic practice, eg, is one supplier used regardless of price.
- Review contracts regularly and before the renewal date to ensure best value. Check Contract Review Schedule annually.

Governors and school managers will ensure that:

- ◆ A basic Best Value Check Form is completed and attached to all orders placed over £5,000.
- ◆ Best value is reviewed annually (and more often if possible) at Governors Meetings and staff meetings.

At the Spring Term full Governors meeting each year:

1. The Best Value check forms from the previous year will be reviewed.
2. The progress of the annual budget plan and Best Value Statement will be monitored, with the School Development Plan, in order to determine the extent of continuous improvement.
3. The Best Value Statement is discussed, amended as appropriate and signed by the Headteacher and Chair of Governors for the next financial year.
4. The Contract Review Schedule is discussed.

Signature of Chair of Governors

Date

Signature of Headteacher

Date

<School Name>

Best Value Check Form

(To be completed and attached to all orders placed over £5,000)

Project	
Budget Heading	

Quotations received:

1		£
2		£
3		£

Agreed Supplier		Cost	£
------------------------	--	-------------	----------

Best Value Review

(Please clarify the rationale used when placing this order if the lowest price has not been selected)

--

Approved: _____ (Headteacher/Bursar) **Date** _____

Orders will not be processed without this form being completed, attached and approved