



Otterbourne Church of England Primary School

Trust, Respect Determination

BEST VALUE STATEMENT

Name / Signature of Headteacher:	Martin Geraghty
Name / Signature of Chair of Governors:	Sue Barham
Date Policy approved and adopted:	October 2024
Date Due for review:	October 2025

VERSION CONTROL LOG

Date	Description of changes (person responsible)
17/10/2024	Review date changed.
11/09/2023	Review date changed.
21/11/2022	Headteacher name changed. Review date changed. Senior Management Team changed to Senior Leadership Team, Removal of School Business Manager (as this role is within the SLT. Inclusion of site manager in monitoring section. Removal of references to Bursar (MG)

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 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 and economic?

The Governors' Approach

The Governors and the 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 various educational 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. RAISE, quality of teaching & learning, 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, and quality/suitability of services/products/backup arrangements
- consult individuals and organisations on quality/suitability of service we provide to parents and pupils, and services we receive from providers

This will apply in particular to staffing, use of premises, use of resources, quality of teaching, quality of learning, purchasing, pupils' welfare and health and safety.

Governors, the Senior Leadership Team and the School Business Manager

- 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 the 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, given available resources.

Use of Premises

Governors and the Senior Leadership Team 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.

Use of Resources

Governors and the Senior Leadership Team will deploy equipment, materials and services to provide pupils and staff with resources which support the delivery of high quality of teaching and learning.

Teaching

Governors and the Senior Leadership Team will review the quality of curriculum provision and quality of teaching, to provide parents and pupils with:

- a curriculum which meets national requirements and the needs of pupils
- teaching which builds on previous learning and has high expectations for children's achievement.

Learning

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

Purchasing

Governors and the 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 minimise office time by the purchase of certain goods or services under £500 direct from known, reliable suppliers.

Learning Environment and Pupil Welfare

Governors and the 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 the 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 and visitors.

Monitoring

These areas will be monitored for best value by:

1. In-house resource monitoring by the Senior Leadership Team, Phase Leaders and the Site Manager
2. Regular monitoring of progress towards agreed annual targets
3. Annual Performance Management
4. Annual Budget Planning
5. Review of monthly monitoring reports by Headteacher and School Business Manager
6. Termly visits by the School Improvement Partner
7. Use of LA analysis of pupil performance data
8. Analysis of financial data against benchmark data for LA schools and similar schools
9. Analysis of DCSF pupil performance data, e.g. RAISE
10. Ofsted Inspection reports
11. ~~Curriculum~~ Link Governors' visits to School
12. Governors' termly sub-committee meetings
13. Governors' termly Full Governing Body meetings

The Governing Body is committed to achieving best value for the school and will:

- discuss "Best Value" as part of the responsibility of the Finance Committee.
- review their "Best Value" statement at each Spring Term meeting.
- ensure that "Best Value" is applied to all contracts both with the LA and with external providers, including ensuring all bought in contracts are reviewed at least every three years
- obtain assessment management surveys, e.g. Display Energy Certificate, Fire and Water assessments.