

Best Value Statement – Financial Year 2024

The Governors of Woodlands Infant and Nursery School are committed to achieving the Best Value in all decisions made. We will use the principles of the Best Value as they apply to securing continuous improvement in this school.

The Governors will apply the four principles of **Best Value** by:

- Regularly reviewing the educational and financial framework, setting targets and performance indicators to maximise improvements. Continually **challenging** the necessity and provision of services within the school.
- Using Financial Benchmarking and LEA statistical data as a **comparison** against similar schools in the area. Ensuring Standards of Financial Management to facilitate best practice.
- The **consultation** of internal and external stakeholders when key decisions are made.
- Annually updating the conflict of interest register. By promoting fair and ethical **competition** throughout the tendering processes and obtaining satisfactory quotations to ensure that goods and services secured are fit for purpose.

We will strive to ensure that the school is using its resources effectively to meet the needs of the pupils.

We will submit our Best Value Statement at the same time as the annual budget plan. The Best value statement is a live document and will be monitored with the school development plan in order to determine the extent of continuous improvement alongside the annual budget plan.

The school has in place a strategy and a set of guidelines, updated annually, which will ensure that Best Value will be reviewed and demonstrated.

This year we will focus on:

Curriculum

- Early language development, Phonics and Reading will be a major focus in school, improving progress and attainment through a range of strategies. As well as taking place in some EEF studies of maths and working memory.
- The school will continue to develop its curriculum ensuring it meets the needs of all of the children and develops cultural capital. We will focus on ensuring the curriculum provides the children with the knowledge and skills they need for the next stage of their education. Assessment will be developed alongside the curriculum to monitor progress.
- The school will continue the integration of ICT in curriculum areas.

School Leadership and Management

- Continue to work closely with the governing body to ensure strategic leadership of the school and provide on-going training for Governors to challenge senior leaders in school.
- Continue to develop the partnership with Birchwood Junior School, The Lancaster School and Woodlands Infant and Nursery School.
- Continue to develop effective working relationships with parents by providing good quality and effective means of communication and ensure parents are kept well informed.
- Continue to develop leading literacy and maths teachers.
- Continuing the Performance Management Cycle through targets linked to SDP for all members of staff in school.

Financial Management

Improving efficiency of financial management by:

- Ensuring all action plans are budgeted.
- Meetings three times a year of the Finance Committee and that Governors are fully involved in the financial planning of the budget through the Headteacher's report at the full Governors meeting.
- Adhering to BV statement when ordering goods and services.
- Ensuring segregation of duties are applied throughout all financial dealings.
- Completing monthly reconciliation of School Fund and annual audit.

Purchasing

- Using the tendering process for major purchases and contacting the LCC procurement team for advice. Services which will be monitored by the Governors.
- Take into account VFM when purchasing resources for school.
- Adhere to segregation of duties for purchasing.

Use of Premises

- Reviewing Health and Safety Policy.
- Providing the best environment to reflect the aims of the school and improve standards.

Use of Resources

- Ensure resources are viable and fit for purpose. Annually update the asset register.
- Major purchases monitored for effectiveness by the Governors against raising standards throughout the school and are in line with school's Action Plans. Reviewed annually at the end of the financial year.

Staffing

- Governors and school leaders will deploy staff to provide best value in terms of quality of learning, teaching, adult-pupil ratio and curriculum management.

Quality of Teaching and Learning

- Continue to develop effective teaching and learning strategies throughout the whole school and already embedded assessment for learning with emphasis in developing reading across the curriculum.
- Teaching and learning to be monitored using the school's self-evaluation programme through lesson observations, lesson studies, interviews with children and other stakeholders, planning and work scrutinies.
- Where teaching and learning is found to be less than 'good' appropriate support will be provided from within the school.
- Developing and enhancing the role of the governing body and senior leaders in school.

Pupils Welfare

A supportive environment will be provided where children feel safe, valued and able to take risks in their learning this will be reviewed continually gaining information from all stakeholders.

Policy considered and accepted at the Finance Committee Meeting 13th May 2024.

Signature Chair of Finance Committee

Date

Signature Chair of Governors

Date