



St Mark's C of E Junior School

Growing together, becoming all we are created to be

Best Value

Aim

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 value?

The Governors' Approach

The Governors and school managers 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 SLT will:

- obtain feedback regularly from Stakeholders
- make comparisons with other/similar schools using data provided by the LA and the Government, e.g. benchmarking, 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, e.g. provision of IT equipment, redecoration
- consult individuals and organisations on quality/suitability of service we provide to parents and pupils, and services we receive from providers, e.g. Relationships and Sex Education, pupil reports, assigned inspector, OFSTED, buildings consultant, energy conservation and Traded Services from the LA.

This will apply in particular to:

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

Governors and the SLT will not:

- waste time and resources on investigating minor areas where few improvements can be achieved
- waste time and resources to make minor savings in costs (see Finance policy)
- waste time and resources by seeking tenders for minor supplies and services under £2000.

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 SLT 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 the 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.

Use of Resources

Governors and the SLT 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 the 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 Gloucestershire 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 the SLT will review the quality of children's learning, by cohort, class, group and individual through termly curriculum meetings.

Purchasing

Governors and the 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:

- competitive tendering procedures (e.g. for goods and services above £2,000)
- 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 goods or services under £2000 direct from known, reliable suppliers (e.g. stationery, small equipment)

Governors and the Pupils' Welfare

Governors and the 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.

Health & Safety

Governors and the 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.

Monitoring

These areas will be monitored for best value by the Governors and SLT:

1. In-house monitoring by the Headteacher and SLT, e.g. classroom practice, work sampling
2. Annual Performance Management
3. Annual Budget Planning
4. Headteacher's regular financial reviews
5. Annual visit by an independent consultant
6. Termly visits by the LA Principal Accounting Advisor (PAA)
7. Analysis of school pupil performance data, e.g. SAT's results, CAT's results, standardised test results, VRQ results, against all schools, LA schools, similar schools nationally
8. Analysis of LA financial data against bench mark data for all schools, LA Schools and similar Voluntary Aided schools
9. Analysis of DfE pupil performance data
10. OFSTED Inspection reports
11. Governors' visits
12. Governors' termly committee meetings
13. Full Governing Body meetings
14. Governors' Annual Budget Setting and Review
15. SFVS Standards Review and return to county

Signed



Committee



Headteacher

Date: Summer 2025