

Best Value Statement



'Learning Together with Love at the Centre'

Reviewed November 2023
To Be Reviewed by November 2024

Best Value Statement

- ❖ The Governing Body, Headteacher and staff are committed to achieving *best value* in all aspects of St. Michael's Infant School to facilitate continuous improvement. Time and resources will concentrate on important issues that provide value added and will not be wasted evaluating areas where only a few improvement or minor savings can be made.
- ❖ In the autumn term, *best value* will be discussed at the FGB meeting and the Best Value Statement updated as appropriate.
- ❖ There are four principles of *best value*

1. Compare

The use or use of target setting, performance management and benchmarking is informed by the use of data available to the school and to individual teachers. The end of KS1 results, results of teacher assessment and EYFS results are considered regularly by Governors and teachers. The use of soft data and the results of questionnaires and financial benchmarking inform judgements concerning the school's performance in relation to other schools.

2. Challenge

The SIP uses the information gained to set targets and to inform the best next steps to consolidate previous developments. The teaching staff sets targets for children giving a realistic but challenging set of goals for children. The Headteacher sets targets for staff. Children are encouraged to self evaluate and work with both group and individual targets.

3. Compete

The LA maintains a list of suppliers of goods and services, setting out specifications for minimum standards and health and safety issues. The school uses the recommended suppliers of HCC wherever possible.

The school governors and managers will always endeavour to obtain value for money for goods and services, but will not pursue minor improvements or savings which are not cost effective in terms of management or administrative time.

In reviewing "best value" the school will not necessarily accept the cheapest quotation. Suitability for purpose and quality of workmanship will also be taken into consideration.

For more significant contracts and orders, the school adopts the following requirements:

- if the cost is more than £10,000 but less than £25,000, at least two competitive quotations will be obtained.
- if the cost is more than £25,000 but less than £100,000 tenders will be invited from at least three persons or firms
- if the cost is more than £100,000, special arrangements exist and County will be consulted.
- Property Services will always be involved where work involves the structure and/ or engineering services of the school building. It is therefore expected that contracts of this nature will be organised by Property Services, and responsibility for the tendering process will rest with them.

4. Consult

Parents and other stakeholders are consulted and their views taken in to account when developing policies and procedures.

- ❖ In deciding spending priorities we will:
 - consider national priorities and initiatives
 - consider local priorities
 - consider own school priorities (we will use self evaluation and inspection outcomes to target improvement/quality of provision)
 - challenge existing patterns of expenditure to identify possible savings and alternative use of resources
- ❖ In allocating resources across the budget we will ask the following:
 - Is the spending short or long term?
 - Will the spending change over time?
 - Is the spending sustainable?
 - How does the proposed spending match priorities and fit in with other plans?
 - Will the quality of provision in this/other areas be adversely affected?
- ❖ We will ensure full consultation with staff and parents if significant changes to provision are proposed.
- ❖ We will challenge whether any aspect of the school's provision could be reduced.
- ❖ We will challenge the deployment of staff to ensure their skills are being used to maximise pupils' learning/overall efficiency.
- ❖ We will take steps to ensure we receive the funding to which we are entitled so that income is maximised.
- ❖ We will compare the quality, cost and impact of services purchased from outside providers, including the LA (eg SLAs)

❖ In monitoring and evaluating spending decisions:

- the governing body will receive reports from the HT to relevant committees
- the HT will receive reports from subject managers

Date discussed by the FGB: November 2023

Date to review: November 2024