



# BEST VALUE STATEMENT

# BRICKHILL PRIMARY SCHOOL

JANUARY 2021

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### 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 and other stakeholders 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? Economic?

**Conservation** – How does the school ensure conservation of materials and energy and reduction of waste in its use of resources? Does it continually strive to lower its ecological footprint? Is it sustainable?

### The Governors' Approach

The Governors and 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 education needs of all pupils.
- Make comparisons with other/similar schools using data provided by the LA and the Government, e.g. benchmarking, quality of teaching and learning, levels of expenditure.
- Challenge proposals, examining them for effectiveness, efficiency, sustainability 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 computer suite, redecoration.
- Consult individuals and organisations on quality/suitability of service we provide to parents and pupils, and services we receive from providers, e.g. assigned SIA, OFSTED and LA advisors.

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
- The school's status as an eco-school

Governors and Senior Leadership Team:

- 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 if a disproportionate amount of resource is required to achieve it.
- 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 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.

### **Use of Premises**

Governors and Senior Leadership Team will consider the allocation and use of teaching areas, support areas and communal area, to provide the best environment for teaching and learning, for support services, and for communal access to central resources, e.g. the library.

### **Use of Resources**

Governors and Senior Leadership Team 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 Senior Leadership Team 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, National Primary Strategy, the LA 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 Senior Leadership Team will review the quality of children's learning, by cohort, class and group, to provide teaching which strives to enable children to achieve or exceed nationally expected progress.

### **Purchasing**

Governors and 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 £2,000)
- Procedures for accepting 'best value' quotes, which are not necessarily the cheapest (e.g. suitability for purpose and quality of workmanship)
- Procedure which minimise office time by the purchase of goods or services under £2,000 direct from known, reliable suppliers (e.g. stationery, small equipment)
- Reference to Bedford Borough Council's Guide to Sustainable Procurement
- Reference to Brickhill Primary's own Finance Manual

### **Pupils' Welfare**

Governors and 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 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 monitoring by the Headteacher and area of learning leaders as specified in our Monitoring and Evaluation Policy
2. Target setting meetings between the Headteacher and class teachers in the Autumn term. Then termly target monitoring with SIA.
3. Annual Performance Management
4. Annual Budget Planning
5. Headteacher's monthly financial review
6. Visits by the LA Finance Auditors
7. Visits by School Improvement Partner
8. Analysis of school pupil performance data, e.g. SATs results, standardised test results, against all schools, LA schools, similar schools
9. Analysis of LA pupil performance data
10. Analysis of LA financial data against bench mark data for all schools, LA schools, similar schools
11. Analysis of DfES pupil performance data, e.g. RAISE online
12. OFSTED Inspection reports
13. Governors' school visits
14. Governors' committee meetings
15. Governors' full half termly meetings
16. Governors' Annual approval of SATs Targets
17. Governors' Annual School Development Plan Meeting
18. Governors School Profile

The Governing Body will:

- Work with school staff to set an Annual SDP
- Discuss 'best value' at an Autumn Term meeting of the Finance Committee
- Review their 'best value' statement annually at a full governing body meeting
- Ensure full compliance with FMSiS requirements (Financial Management Standard in Schools) and with the schools own Finance Manual
- Carry out regular benchmarking exercises

Policy reviewed and updated: ..... Signed .....

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