

Mission Statement – IN CHRIST WE GROW

As a learning community we live out our Mission Statement striving for excellence through caring, sharing and achieving.

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 improvement plans. Governors need to secure the best possible outcome for learners, in the most efficient and effective way, at a reasonable cost. This leads to continuous improvement in the school's achievements and services.

What Is Best Value?

Governors apply the four principles of *best value*:

- **Challenge** – Is the school's performance high enough? Why and how is a service provided? Is it still needed? Can it be delivered differently? What do parents want?
- **Compare** – How does the school's learner performance and financial performance compare with other schools?
- **Consult** – How does the school seek the views of stakeholders about the services the school provides?
- **Compete** – How does the school secure efficient, effective and economics services which are of appropriate quality?

The Governors and school leaders 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 learners.

Governors, and the school leaders:

- Make comparisons with other/similar schools using data provided by the LA and the Government, e.g. quality of learning and teaching, levels of expenditure.
- Challenge proposals, examining them for effectiveness, efficiency and cost, including setting of annual learner achievement targets, departmental capitation and plans
- Require suppliers to compete on grounds of cost and quality/suitability of services/products/backup, examples - provision of ICT resources, redecorations, grounds maintenance, energy supplies.
- Consult individuals and organisations on quality/suitability of service provided to parents and learners, services received from providers, including Archdiocesan consultants, LA Advisors, LA Legal, Payroll and Personnel Services.

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 school leaders:

- 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 school leaders will deploy staff to provide best value in terms of quality of teaching, quality of learning, adult pupil ratio and curriculum management and administration. Staffing is a significant cost to budget and is monitored and developed through Performance Management, Staff Professional Code, attendance records and CPD.

Use of Premises

Governors and school leaders will consider the allocation and use of teaching areas, support areas and communal areas to provide the best environment for teaching and learning, for support services and for communal access to central resources – e.g. library, sports centre.

Use of Resources

Governors and school leaders will deploy equipment, material and services to provide pupils and staff with resources which support quality of teaching and quality of learning.

Quality of Teaching

Governors and school leaders review annually the quality of curriculum provision and quality of teaching to ensure

- A curriculum which meets the requirements of the National Secondary Strategy, Archdiocesan RE Syllabus and the needs of learners
- Teaching which builds on previous learning and has high expectations of learner's achievement
- The Every Child Matters agenda informs our inclusion and learner welfare quality.

Quality of Learning

Governors and school managers review the quality of children's learning, through Subject Leaders, classroom observations, sampling, interviews and analysis of internal and external data, incl. GCSE results, to provide teaching which enables learners to achieve nationally expected progress, e.g. setting of annual learner achievement targets.

Purchasing

Governors and school leaders 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 £9,999)
- Procedures which minimise office time by the purchase of goods or services under £1000 direct from known, reliable suppliers (e.g. stationery, small equipment)

Pupils' Welfare

Governors and school leaders 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 and Safety

Governors and school leaders 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

In summary Best Value is evidenced through

1. In-house monitoring by the Headteacher, SLT, Subject Leaders and LMs, e.g. classroom practice, work sampling, interview and interventions.
2. Termly target setting meetings
3. Annual Performance Management
4. Annual Budget Planning
5. Headteacher's monthly financial review
6. SIP reports
7. Adviser's report
8. Analysis of school learner performance data
9. Analysis of LA financial data, bench mark data for all schools, LA schools, similar schools
10. OFSTED inspection reports
11. Governors' committee meetings
12. Governors' meetings
14. Governors' Annual Budget Meeting
16. School Improvement Profile
17. SEF

Signed _____
Chair of Governors

Date _____

Signed _____
Headteacher

Date _____