



Whitecross Nursery School

Best Value Statement

Reviewed by	Claire Devey (Chair of Governors)
Date of review	(Annual Review) September 2024
Date of next review	September 2025
Ratified by the Chair of Governors	September 2025

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 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?

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 school managers, will:

- make comparisons with similar schools using data provided by the LA and the Government, looking at quality of teaching & learning, levels of expenditure, etc

- challenge proposals, examining them for effectiveness, efficiency and cost, e.g. closely monitoring each year's cohort of children - their families, circumstances and needs
- require suppliers to compete on grounds of cost, quality/suitability of services/products/backup, for further building / furnishing improvements
- consult individuals and organisations on quality/suitability of service we provide to parents and pupils, and services we receive from providers, e.g. pupil reports, Performance Management External Adviser, Ofsted, DCC maintenance consultant, utility contracts

This will apply in particular to:

Staffing

Governors and school managers 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 school managers will consider the allocation and use of teaching areas, support areas and communal areas, to provide the best environment for teaching & learning, and family support.

Use of resources

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

Quality of teaching

Governors and school managers 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 Early Years Foundation Stage Framework and the needs of our pupils
- teaching which builds on previous learning and has high expectations of children's achievement.

Quality of learning

Governors and school managers will review the quality of children's learning each year to ensure teaching which enables children to achieve their potential and to have the skills and experiences to continue to develop in line with nationally expected progress.

Purchasing

Governors and school managers 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 through DCC (e.g. for goods and services above £10,000)
- 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 £1000 direct from known, reliable suppliers (e.g. stationery, small equipment).

Pupils' welfare

Governors and school managers will review the quality of the school environment and the school ethos, in order to provide a supportive environment conducive to learning, enjoyment and recreation.

Health and safety

Governors and school managers 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. The Headteacher
2. Regular meetings and discussion between all members of the teaching and learning team
3. Annual Performance Management
4. Annual Budget Planning
5. Headteacher's periodic financial monitoring
6. Termly visits by the LA Assigned School Improvement Partner
7. Regular visits by the LA Finance Adviser
8. Analysis of appropriate school pupil performance data.
9. Analysis of appropriate LA pupil performance data.
10. Governors' half termly meetings
11. Governors' Half Termly Budget Review
12. Governors' Termly School Development Plan Review
13. Governors' Annual Report to Parents

Each term the Governing Body will monitor and assess:

- Pupil achievement.
- The School Development Plan

Each year the Governing Body and school managers will monitor and assess:

- "Best Value"
 - Their "Best Value" statement
- and will
- consult with DCC to advise on maintenance and improvement of the schools' buildings and to obtain suitable quotes for further development.
 - obtain assessment management surveys as required.

Governors and school managers:

- 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.