

## 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 / Value for Money?

## 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 leaders will:

- make comparisons with other / similar schools using data provided by the LA and the Government, e.g. ASP/IDSR, 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 computer suite, redecoration;
- consult individuals and organisations on quality / suitability of service we provide to parents and pupils, and services we receive from providers.

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
- to make minor savings in costs
- by seeking quotes for minor supplies and services

The pursuit of minor improvements on 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 will take a strategic view on staffing (i.e. overall numbers); school leaders 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, for support services, and for communal access to central resources, e.g. the library.

### **Use of Resources**

Governors and school leaders will deploy sufficient equipment, materials and services to pupils and staff which support quality of teaching and quality of learning.

### **Teaching**

Governors and school leaders 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 and the needs of pupils;
- teaching which builds on previous learning and has high expectations of children's achievement.

### **Learning**

Governors and school leaders will review the quality of children's learning, by cohort, class and group, to provide teaching which enables children to achieve at least nationally expected progress, e.g. setting of annual pupil achievement targets.

### **Purchasing**

Governors and school leaders will develop procedures for assessing need, and obtaining goods and services that provide "best value" in terms of suitability, efficiency, time, and cost. Measures already in place include:

- competitive tendering procedures;
- 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 £1,000 direct from known, reliable suppliers (e.g. stationery and 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 & 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.

Rucstall Primary School  
Best Value Statement



**Monitoring**

These areas will be monitored for best value by:

1. In-house monitoring by the Headteacher and curriculum managers, e.g. classroom practice, work sampling
2. Meetings between the Headteacher and senior leaders
3. Annual Performance Management
4. Annual Budget Planning
5. Headteacher's financial reviews
6. Visits by the School's LLP
7. Visits by the LA School's EFS adviser
8. Analysis of school pupil performance data, e.g. SATs results, LA schools, similar schools
9. Analysis of LA pupil performance data
10. Analysis of financial benchmarking data for all schools, LA Schools or similar sized schools
11. Analysis of ASP, IDSR, Perspective Lite and FFT pupil performance data
12. Ofsted Inspection reports
13. Governors' triangulation visits
14. Governors' Annual Finance Review

In the next three years the Governing Body will continue to:

- discuss "Best Value" and consider this policy as shared above.

Policy Date:	October 2025
Review Due:	October 2028
Date Approved:	October 2025