



# Best Value Statement

## Mission Statement:

*'In St Margaret Mary's School  
we welcome everyone into our community  
in order to live, love and learn  
together in the light and example of the life of Christ.'*

## GOVERNORS OF ST MARGARET MARY CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

### BEST VALUE STATEMENT

#### 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 LEA 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 other/similar schools using data provided by the LEA and the Government, e.g. benchmarking tools, 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
- **consult** individuals and organisations on quality/suitability of service we provide to parents and pupils, and services we receive from providers, e.g. Sex and Relationships Education, pupil reports, assigned inspector, OFSTED, Finance consultant, LEA Energy Unit

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 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.

### ***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, for support services, and for communal access to central resources, e.g. the library.

### ***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 quality of learning.

### ***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 National Curriculum, National Literacy Strategy and National Numeracy Strategy, the LEA 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 school managers will review the quality of children's learning, by cohort, class and group, to provide teaching which enables children to achieve nationally expected progress, e.g. setting of annual pupil achievement targets and striving to improve on or maintain previous years exam results and attendance

### ***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 (e.g. for goods and services above £50,000)
- three quotes for goods and services in excess of £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 and recreation.

### ***Health & 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. In-house monitoring by the Headteacher and curriculum managers, e.g. classroom practice, work sampling
2. Termly target setting meetings between the Headteacher and curriculum managers
3. Annual Performance Management
4. Annual Budget Planning
5. Headteacher's regular finance review
6. Termly visits by the LA Assigned Inspector
7. Half Termly Visits visits by the DRB Finance Consultants
8. Analysis's of school pupil performance data against similar LA schools
9. Analysis's of LA pupil performance data, e.g. CRISP reports
10. Analysis of LA financial data against bench mark data for all schools, LA schools, similar schools
11. Analysis of DCSf pupil performance data
12. OFSTED Inspection reports
13. Governors' termly classroom observations
14. Governors' termly committee meetings
15. Governors' full termly meetings
16. Governors' Annual Finance Review
17. Governors' Annual SATs Target Setting Meeting
18. Governors' Annual Development Plan Meeting
19. Governors' Annual Report to Parents

In the next three years the Governing Bodies will:

- hold an annual performance plan meeting to set targets for improving pupil achievement.
- hold an annual development plan meeting.
- discuss "Best Value" at each Autumn Term meeting of the Finance Committee.
- review their "Best Value" statement at each Spring Term meeting.
- consider best value when arranging internal and external redecoration contracts.
- employ a maintenance consultant to advise on maintenance of the schools' buildings.
- obtain a consultant's advice on the Asset Management Plan.