



# Lenham Primary School

## Best Value Statement

**September 2013 to September 2014**

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# Best Value Statement

## 1. 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.

## 2. 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?
- **Consult** - How does the school seek the views of stakeholders about the services the school provides?
- **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?
- **Compete** - How does the school secure efficient and effective services? Are services of appropriate quality, economic?

## 3. 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 LA and the Government, e.g. RAISE, quality of teaching & learning, levels of expenditure
- challenge proposals, examining them for effectiveness, efficiency, and cost, e.g. setting of annual pupil achievement targets, expansion to 2-form entry
- 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. Sex and Relationships Education, pupil reports, assigned inspector, Ofsted, maintenance consultant, Borough Energy Group.

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.

### ***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, Primary National Strategy, Key Stage 2 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 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, 2 national curriculum levels between Years 3 and 6.

## ***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 £8,000)
- 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 £1,000 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.

## **4. Monitoring**

These areas will be monitored for best value by:

1. In-house monitoring by the Head Teacher and curriculum managers, e.g. classroom practice, work sampling
2. Termly target setting meetings between the Head Teacher and curriculum managers
3. Annual Performance Management
4. Annual Budget Planning
5. Head Teacher’s monthly financial review
6. Quarterly submission of the budget to the LA
7. Analysis of school pupil performance data, e.g. SATs results, standardised test results, 11+ results against all schools, LA schools, similar schools
8. Analysis of LA pupil performance data
9. Analysis of LA financial data, e.g. ORACLE reports, against bench mark data for all schools, LA schools, similar schools
10. Analysis of DCSF pupil performance data, e.g. RAISE
11. Ofsted Inspection reports
12. Governors’ termly classroom observations
13. Governors’ termly committee meetings
14. Governors’ full termly meetings
15. Governors’ Annual Finance Review
16. Governors’ Annual Development Plan Meeting.

In the next three years the Governing Body will:

- 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
- obtain tenders and a consultant’s advice any large scale refurbishment of the premises.

**Confirmation: The Best Value Statement in respect of Lenham Primary School has been discussed by the Governing Body**

Policy agreed at Finance and General Purposes Committee on 20<sup>th</sup> September 2013