



BEST VALUE STATEMENT March 2025

Introduction

The Governing Body of Gascoigne Primary School is committed to following Best Value principles in all decisions made. The governing body is required to set targets to raise standards and is expected to provide good quality public services and to spend the available budget wisely.

What is Best Value?

In relation to schools and expenditure from delegated budgets, the main features of Best Value can be summarised as a need for the governing body of a school to ensure the existence of a programme of performance review which will aim for continual improvement.

The Principles of 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 allocations of resources to best promote the aims and values of the school.
- The targeting of resources to best improves standards and the quality of provision.
- The uses 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 Local Authority and the Government, e.g. Data view. 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 7-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., assigned inspector, Ofsted, maintenance consultant, Local Authority 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
- will use established consortia or Local Authority contracts, wherever possible, to support the principles of best value

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.

Purchasing

Governors and Head teacher 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:

- contracts for purchases of goods or services above £10,000
 - competitive tendering procedures (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)
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- maximising the use of Local Authority contracts or other suitable consortia

Monitoring

These areas will be monitored for best value by:

1. Annual Performance Management
2. Annual Budget Planning
3. Headteacher’s monthly financial review with Finance Manager
4. Termly visits by the LA Assigned Inspector
5. Termly visits by the LA Finance Adviser
6. Analysis of school pupil performance data, e.g. SATs results, standardised test results, 11+ results against all schools, LA schools, similar schools
7. Analysis of LA pupil performance data, e.g. CRISP reports
8. Analysis of LA financial data, e.g. ORACLE reports, against bench mark data for all schools, LA schools, similar schools
9. Analysis of DFE pupil performance data, e.g. Data View
10. Ofsted Inspection reports
11. Governors’ termly committee meetings
12. Governors’ full termly meetings



- 13. Governors' Annual Finance Review
- 14. Governors' Annual Development Plan Meeting

Confirmation the Best Value Statement in respect of Gascoigne Primary School has been discussed by the Governing Body

(Signed): _____
(Headteacher)

Dated: _____

(Signed): _____
(Chair of Governing Body)

Dated: _____