

# Value for Money Statement

**Organisation name: Ratby Primary School**

**Company number: 8293293**

**Year ended 31 August 2014**

I accept that as accounting officer of Ratby Primary School I am responsible and accountable for ensuring that the academy trust delivers good value in the use of public resources. I am aware of the guide to academy value for money statements published by the Education Funding Agency and understand that value for money refers to the educational and wider societal outcomes achieved in return for the taxpayer resources received.

I set out below how I have ensured that the academy trust's use of its resources has provided good value for money during the academic year.

Ratby Primary School  
Company Number: 08293293  
Best Value Statement

## Introduction

The Governing Body and staff of Ratby Primary School are committed to achieving Best Value in all decisions made. We use the principles of Best Value as they apply to securing continuous improvement in school and will:

- o regularly review the functions of the school, challenging how and why services are provide and setting targets and performance indicators for improvement;
- o monitor outcomes and compare performance with similar schools and within the school;
- o consult appropriate stakeholders before major decisions are made; and
- o promote fair competition through quotations and tenders to ensure that goods and services are secured in the most economic, efficient and effective way.

We strive to ensure that school is using its resources effectively to meet the needs of pupils.

We will submit our Best Value Statement with the annual budget plan. The progress of the annual budget plan and the Best Value Statement will be monitored with the school development plan in order to determine the extent of continuous improvement.

## What Is Best Value?

Governors will apply the four principles of best value:

- o 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?
- o 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?
- o Consult - How does the school seek the views of stakeholders about the services the school provides?
- o 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:

- o the allocation of resources to best promote the aims and values of the school.
- o the targeting of resources to best improve standards and the quality of provision.
- o the use of resources to best support the various educational needs of all pupils.

Governors, and the school managers, will:

- o 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
- o challenge proposals, examining them for effectiveness, efficiency, and cost, e.g. setting of annual pupil achievement targets, expansion to 3-form entry,
- o require suppliers to compete on grounds of cost, and quality/suitability of services/products/backup, e.g.

provision of computer suite, redecoration

o 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:

- o staffing
- o use of premises
- o use of resources
- o quality of teaching
- o quality of learning
- o purchasing
- o pupils' welfare
- o health and safety.

Governors and school managers:

- o will not waste time and resources on investigating minor areas where few improvements can be achieved
- o will not waste time and resources to make minor savings in costs
- o 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 Primary National Strategy, Key Stage 3 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 £5,000)
- 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 Senior Leadership Team, e.g. classroom practice, work sampling
2. Pupil Progress Meetings between the Headteacher and class teachers
3. Annual Performance Management
4. Annual Budget Planning
5. Headteacher's monthly financial review
6. Termly visits by the School Development Adviser
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 SATs Target Setting Meeting
17. Governors' Annual Development Plan Meeting
18. Governors' Annual Report to Parents

In the next three years the Governing Body will:

- o hold an annual performance plan meeting to set targets for improving pupil achievement.
- o hold an annual development plan meeting.
- o discuss "Best Value" at each Autumn Term meeting of the Finance & Personnel Committee.
- o review their "Best Value" statement at each Spring Term meeting.
- o consider best value when arranging internal and external redecoration contracts.
- o employ a maintenance consultant to advise on maintenance of the schools' buildings.
- o obtain tenders and a consultant's advice on the installation of an IT suite, and any large scale refurbishment of the premises.
- o obtain assessment management surveys .

Confirmation the Best Value Statement in respect of Ratby Primary School has been discussed by the Finance & Personnel Committee, as delegated by the Governing Body

Policy/Document Best Value Statement

Reviewing Committee Finance & Personnel Committee

Last Reviewed May 2013

Date Agreed 6th June 2013

Signed by Chair of Governors/Committee

**Name:** Miss Lisa Aitken

**Academy Trust Accounting Officer**

**Date:** 20 Nov 2014