

# RIPPLE PRIMARY SCHOOL

## BEST VALUE POLICY

### 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. 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. Best Value principles will be applied to education functions, care of pupils, staffing levels and organisation, the school environment and resources, school leadership, school management and financial management. This policy shows how this will be done and why.

### 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, economic?

### Purposes

The Governing Body and Headteacher will do their best through their management and decision-making processes and within the constraints of the available budget to:

- ensure:
  - high standards of attainment and good pupil achievement
  - high quality provision in terms of teaching, the curriculum accommodation and resources;
- take into account the views and aspirations of:
  - all members of the school community
  - the parent body
  - external stakeholders;
- obtain value for money by:
  - Providing necessary and beneficial services for the pupils and other members of the school community at the best possible price.

Through the processes shown below, the Governing Body and Headteacher will:

- agree the direction the school will take;
- link together the processes and development planning and budgetary planning to bring about measurable outcomes;
- evaluate the effectiveness of development work and the associated spending.

This should contribute to the raising of attainment through a process of continuous development and improvement.

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

### Guidelines

The Governing Body, working in cooperation with the headteacher will:

- review systematically the major functions of the school. It will **challenge** the *status quo* by exploring how and why particular functions or services are provided;
- consider the quality of necessary existing provision and **compare** this with the quality and price of alternative providers. Improve quality and value for money through this process of **competition**.
- monitor educational standards and **compare** them with schools in similar circumstances and all school nationally. Agree ways of improving standards after seeking professional advice either from within the school, from the Local Education Authority or external consultants;
- **monitor** the effectiveness of development work, particularly where this has incurred major expenditure;
- **consult** appropriate stakeholders over major decisions, particularly where these are likely to have an impact on standards, the curriculum, the working environment or staff employment. Consult parents to consider their views on the effectiveness of the school and areas for improvement. The governing body will interpret and evaluate the findings before planning any necessary action;
- promote fair **competition** through quotations and tenders(only for works/resources at £20,000+) to ensure that major purchases of goods and services are secured in the most economic, efficient and effective way.

### 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.

**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 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 end of KS1 and end of KS2.

**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.

**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.

**Approved by the Chair of Governors:**

**Signature:** .....

**Date:** .....