



CARLISLE INFANT AND HAMPTON HILL FEDERATION

Best Value Policy

This policy was adopted/updated:	Summer 2023
This policy will be reviewed again:	Summer 2026
Governor Committee Responsibility:	Finance and Premises Committee
Statutory Policy?:	No
Source:	School

FINANCE and PREMISES COMMITTEE

Best Value Policy

Introduction

The governing body is accountable for the way in which each school within the Federation's resources are allocated to meet the objectives set out in the School Improvement Plan(s). 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 other local schools provided by AfC. How does it compare with similar schools nationally?
- **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 and 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 school managers will:

- make comparisons with other / similar schools, using data provided by the AfC and the Government
- challenge proposals, examining them for effectiveness, efficiency, and cost
- require suppliers to compete on grounds of cost, quality, suitability of services, products, backup

- consult individuals and organisations on quality and suitability of services we provide to parents and pupils, and services we receive from providers

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 pursue financial improvements only where such investigations are not wasteful of time and resources.

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 and learning, for support services, and for communal access to central resources – eg, 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 learning.

Teaching

Governors and school managers will review the quality of curriculum provision and quality of teaching, to provide parents and pupils with:

- provide a curriculum which meets the requirements of the National Curriculum and the needs of pupils
- provide 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 - eg, setting of annual pupil achievement targets.

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
- procedures for accepting *best value* quotes, which are not necessarily the cheapest - eg, suitability for purpose and quality of workmanship
- procedures for minimising office time by purchasing goods and/or services under £1,000 direct from known, reliable suppliers

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 and 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:

- monitoring by the head teacher and curriculum managers - eg, classroom practice, work sampling
- termly target setting meetings between the head teacher and curriculum managers
- annual performance management
- annual budget planning
- head teacher's monthly financial review
- analysis of school pupil performance data - eg, SATs results, standardised test results, against LA schools and similar schools
- analysis of LA pupil performance data
- analysis of financial data against other local (AfC) schools and similar schools
- analysis of DfE pupil performance data - eg, RAISE
- Ofsted inspection reports
- governors' termly classroom visits
- governors' termly committee meetings
- governors' annual finance review
- governors' annual School Improvement Plan meeting

Annually the governing body will:

1. review targets and progress for improving pupil achievement
2. review, annually, school improvement plan
3. discuss *best value* at each spring term meeting of the finance committee
4. review this Best Value Policy at each spring term meeting
5. consider *best value* when using external consultants and arranging other contracts
6. obtain tenders and a consultant's advice on any large scale refurbishment of the premises, in accordance with the Schools' Financial Regulations and Standing Orders