

# Welton St. Mary's Church of England Primary Academy



## Our Vision

As an inclusive Christian community we value each person, seeking to release everyone's full potential as promised by Jesus Christ. We seek to provide a safe, inspiring and creative learning environment providing opportunities for all to flourish. Through challenge, support and care, we strive for excellence in all that we do; always building on the foundations of shared values with consistently high expectations rooted in God's love. Together we are encouraged to be agents of positive change in this world.

*'May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.'* Romans 15:13

**Wisdom Hope Community Dignity**

## Value for Money Statement

Approved January 2024  
Review Annually

## Welton St Mary's Church of England Primary Academy

Company Number: 8314146

I accept that as accounting officer of Welton St Mary's CE Primary Academy 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's use of its resources has provided good value for money during the academic year.

The Governing Body of Welton St Mary's Church of England Primary Academy is accountable for the way in which the school's resources are allocated to meet the objectives set out in the School Development Plans. Governors need to secure the best possible outcomes 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 benefits of a Best Value Strategy

The Best Value Strategy will provide a number of key benefits to the Academy.

- The strategy will formally establish, and help to highlight, the governors' commitment to creating the best value culture throughout the Academy
- The strategy will raise awareness of the benefits the Academy can obtain from working towards a best value culture
- The strategy will clarify governor and staff responsibilities in relation to best value.
- The strategy will provide a framework within which the Academy can work towards creating a best value culture.

### Approach to Best Value

Governors will apply the four principles of best value:

- **Challenge** – is the school's performance high enough? Why and how is the service provided? Do we still need it? Can it be delivered differently? What is best for the pupils? What do parents want?
- **Compare** – How does the school pupil performance and financial performance compare with all schools? How does it compare with LA schools? How does it compare with similar schools nationally?
- **Consult** – How does the school seek the views of the stakeholders about the services the school provides?
- **Compete** – How does the school secure efficient and effective services? Are services appropriate, of a high quality and economic?

## The Governors' Approach

The Governors and School Leaders 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 leaders will:

- Make comparisons with other / similar schools using data provided by the LA and the government e.g. benchmarking tools, quality of teaching and learning, levels of expenditure
- Challenge proposals, examining them for effectiveness, efficiency and cost e.g. setting of annual pupil achievement targets
- Require suppliers to compete on the grounds of cost and quality / suitability of services / products / backup
- Consult individuals and organisations on quality / suitability of services we provide to parents and pupils and receive from providers e.g. OFSTED, Accountants, LA, consultants

Governors and School leaders:

- 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 or savings 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 Leaders will regularly review its staffing structure and 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 leaders will consider the allocation and use of teaching areas, support areas and communal areas, to provide the best environment for teaching and learning, support services and for communal access to central resources e.g. library

## Use of Resources

Governors and school leaders 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 needs of the children, and the LA Agreed RE Syllabus and the National Curriculum
- Teaching which build on previous learning and has high expectations of children's achievements.

## Learning

Governors and school leaders will review the quality of children's learning, by cohort, class and group to provide teaching which enables children to achieve, as a minimum, nationally expected progress, e.g. setting of annual pupil achievement targets and striving to maintain and improve on previous years' results and attendance.

## Purchasing

Governors and school leaders 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 are:

- Competitive tendering procedures (e.g. for goods and services over £10,000)
- Three quotes for goods and services over £1,000 unless emergency work esp. in relation to H&S is require to keep the school operating. In this circumstance best effort to obtain and sign off from finance committee member will be obtained.
- 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 and services under £500 direct from known, reliable suppliers (e.g. stationery, small equipment)

Detailed below is an overview of the Academy's Purchasing Structure:

- All staff can raise internal order requisitions for the purchase of goods
- Budget holders sign and approve internal orders stating the budget from which the goods will be purchased
- Internal order requisitions are agreed by the School Business Manager
- Internal order requisitions are agreed by the Headteacher
- Internal order requisitions are processed by the School Business Manager or Finance Administrator
- Official orders are then processed through Sage by the School Business Manager or Finance Administrator.

The Academy already has good practice procedures for the purchase of Information Technology equipment:

- An internal requisition is checked and approved by IT lead, School Business Manager and Headteacher before an official order is raised.

### **Pupils' Welfare**

Governors and school leaders will review the quality of the school environment and school ethos in order to provide a supportive environment conducive to learning and recreation

### **Health and safety**

Governors and school leaders 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.

### **Quantifying improvements**

The academy was last inspected in January 2022 where overall effectiveness was good. Quality of teaching and achievement was good. Behaviour and Leadership were outstanding.

Performance data continues to show attainment above national expectations. Progress throughout the school continues to improve.

### **Monitoring**

These areas will be monitored for best value by:

- In house monitoring by the Headteacher and Senior Leadership Team e.g. classroom practice, work sampling
- Termly target setting meetings and Pupil Progress Meetings between Senior Leadership Team and teaching staff
- Staff Appraisal
- Annual Budget Planning
- Headteacher's regular financial reviews
- Chair of Finance regular financial reviews
- Visits by Accountants
- Analysis of school pupil performance data against similar schools and nationally
- Analysis of Teachernet Academies Benchmarking Profiles
- Analysis for DCFS pupil performance data
- OFSTED Inspection reports
- Education Advisor reports
- Governors' termly School Improvement committee meetings
- Governors' termly financial committee meetings
- Governors' full meetings
- Governor work in school with Subject leaders

**In the next 3 years the Governing Body will:**

- Meet to plan how to improve pupils' achievement further
- Discuss 'best value' at each Autumn term meeting of the Finance Committee
- Review 'Best Value' statement at the Autumn term meeting of finance committee and full governors meeting
- Consider best value when arranging premises works.
- Develop monitoring and evaluation of best value
  - a) - Termly budgetary cost centre reports are provided for budget holders. This is the most appropriate time for monitoring, reviewing and recording 'best value'. A random selection of purchasing items from each key budget area is taken and each budget holder has the responsibility for the selected purchases to complete a simple best value questionnaire.
  - b) - Regular overview monitoring to ensure that orders are being placed in the most efficient way.
  - d) - An annual report to the Governing Body giving an overview of the monitoring processes.
- Work on income generation



**Signed:**

**Name:** N J Gough

**Position:** Academy Accounting Officer

**Date:** 18 January 2024