




BEST VALUE STATEMENT

(Non-Statutory)

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| Date of Policy Issue/Review | Reviewed January 2025 by School Business Manager |
| Policy approved/date | By FGB at their meeting on 20 th January 2025 |
| Signature of Governing Body | Signed for and on behalf of FGB  |
| Next review | January 2026 |

The Governors of Newlands Primary School are committed to applying the Best Value principles in all matters within the school where resources management and allocation are considered. The four principles of Best Value: Compare, Challenge, Compete and Consult

1. Compare

Many aspects of the school's performance are compared throughout the year to judge how well resources are being used to meet our aims and objectives. The use of target setting, performance management and benchmarking is informed by the use of data available to the school and to individual teachers.

Various mechanisms are used, which may include (but are not limited to):

- OFSTED's Inspection Reports
- Perspective Lite data analysis and Primary Assessment Gateway
- Financial Benchmarking
- Schools Financial Value Statement (SFVS) – statutory return completed annually
- Annual Budget Planning and review of monthly monitoring reports
- Statutory Attainment Test results
- Hampshire County Council comparative statistics
- Inter-school comparisons (giving consideration to cluster events and initiatives)
- National comparisons
- Meetings/contacts within other schools

Additionally, Consistent Financial Reporting is adhered to in order to enable future financial comparisons to be made.

2. Challenge

The School Development Plan (SDP) sets out the overall achievement goals and development targets. Time is taken within the school to review and question performance, routines and procedures. The SDP uses the information gained to set targets and to inform the best next steps, to consolidate previous developments.

- Open decision making including senior leadership team members and governors ensures customs and habits do not become entrenched
- Staff meetings and year group meetings provide a forum for new ideas to be raised
- The Headteacher ensures targets are set for all year groups, giving a realistic but challenging set of goals for children and staff
- Teachers set individual targets for pupils and report on these in parent consultations and through the annual pupil report (which includes a section for pupil self-evaluation).
- New information on suppliers and products are regularly considered to ensure any possible savings can be identified as well as alternative uses for resources

3. Compete

The school applies the principle of competition by making sure that we buy or provide the best possible service at the best possible price.

To achieve this various practices including the following are employed:

- Clear specifications for developments and purchases are set
- Hampshire County Supplies are used as often as possible to gain the benefits of their greater purchasing powers (together with the additional assurance over value for money and service levels this provides)
- Discounts, delivery capabilities and quality as well as price are considered when choosing a supplier
- Three quotations are gained for orders over £5,000
- For building projects the advice of Hampshire County Council Architects is always sought in choosing suppliers
- A Register of Pecuniary Interest is maintained to ensure that public money is spent without any personal gain

4. Consult

The Headteacher and Governors will ensure appropriate consultation activities are in place to make it possible for local views to be gathered and considered in order to obtain a good understanding of the needs and priorities of school service users and to help facilitate any change that may occur.

Mechanisms informing this principle may include:

- Annual parents consultation evenings as well as ad-hoc meetings where necessary
- Questionnaires to a range of stakeholders (including a pupil attitude survey)
- Ensure full consultation with staff and parents if significant changes to provision are proposed
- Periodic review of complaints
- Use of technologies including a parent messaging service and school website for communication
- School council meetings
- Evaluation of pupils' work by subject area
- Liaison with local schools
- Staff meetings
- Timetabled Governor meetings
- Newlands Primary School Parents' Association - FONDS (deciding on use of funds raised)
- External providers and agencies

In allocating resources across the budget we will question the following:

- Is the spending long or short term?
- Will the spending change over time?
- Is the spending sustainable?
- How does the proposed spending fit in with other plans?
- Will the quality of provision in this area or in others be adversely affected?
- What will be the impact of this on pupil outcomes?

We will take steps to ensure we receive the funding to which we are entitled so that income is maximized

Our spending is guided by the School Development Plan which is monitored in several layers:

- The governing body monitor the effectiveness of the overall plan
- The Headteacher monitors the effectiveness of the overall plan and reports to the governing body each term through the Headteacher's Report
- The Subject Leaders monitor their action plans using agreed success criteria
- Individual projects and school activities are monitored financially in terms of income and expenditure