



# Glen Hills Primary School

## Best Value Statement

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The governors and staff of Glen Hills 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 this school and will:

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

We will strive to ensure that the 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 improvement plan in order to determine the extent of continuous improvement.

Below are examples of how we ensure 'Best Value' is achieved at Glen Hills. 'Best Value' is underpinned in all aspects of school life and with the Fosse Trust, we will ensure 'best value' remains a key priority;

### **FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT**

- Benchmarking against similar schools in all aspects of financial expenditure per pupil (eg teaching costs, ICT resources, energy, sewerage and water etc) and, where necessary, investigating how we can change aspects to achieve VfM
  - Example – 2011 benchmarking showed Glen Hills to be roughly average compared to similar Leicestershire Schools.
- Investigating and assessing VfM when requiring services – recognising that best price does not always mean best value for money, investigating prices for staff insurance cover, supply staff agencies best prices etc
  - Examples – 2007 reflooring of toilet areas went to a contractor who did not quote the lowest price but provided a more thorough quotation and a guarantee time for completed work. This contractor had also been used at a local school who was very happy with the work carried out.
  - Agency supply cover – we generally do not use the cheapest agency for cover but use the 'next' cheapest due to better quality and reliability of teachers being provided.
- Investigating financial services including banking and interest rates where necessary.
  - Example – 2012 – establishing the most competitive bank for the new Academy to use.

## TEACHING AND CARE OF PUPILS

- Using RAISEonline and other assessment information to assess own performance and against local and national perspectives
- Ensuring pupil class sizes are minimised as far as possible and there is also a good coverage of classroom support adults to cater for all our children's needs.
- Consistently challenging teaching standards and where appropriate, lead development and improvement throughout the school.
  - Example – 2012 – Teaching School status achieved to promote excellence in teaching
- Embrace new initiatives and assess their impact on raising teaching and learning in the school without affecting current good practice.
  - Example – 2007 – we started to use the National Maths and Literacy frameworks and through monitoring, we found that certain aspects did not complement or benefit Glen Hills children in accelerating their learning. We therefore adapted the material so it was beneficial for our children.
- Consulting with the pupils to act on their responses and maintain positive feeling at school
  - Example – since 2003 we have had a school council and they have arranged for (eg) fruit to be sold to KS2, a new shaded area, the trim trail on the field.

## LEADERSHIP, MANAGEMENT AND STAFFING

- Job descriptions, personnel and recruitment match the school's needs and areas for development
  - Example – 2011 – an additional Deputy Head post was created to match the extended size of the school and emphasise the importance of leadership
- Networking with other schools to provide extra specialism in teaching / sharing resources

## PARENTS

- We provide a parental questionnaire each year and act, where possible, on any suggestions for improvement.
  - Example – 2007 – a new waiting area was provided for the KS2 parents after they were concerned over safety when waiting for their children to come out of school.
- We have many fundraising and social events in order to ensure parents know they are a main part of the school and to attract new parents.

## RESOURCES

- When ordering goods, staff have access to a range of suppliers catalogues / online catalogues to buy 'best value' products
- Staff know the procedure for ordering resources and the systems of checking stock and replacing when necessary are adhered to unless a bulk order at a cheaper price is applicable
- Purchasing rather than leasing or vice versa
  - Example – 2006 – we investigated the cost of our PAT testing against purchasing the equipment and training our Premises Officer to use it. This appeared the cheaper option until we discovered that the equipment needed to be calibrated each year at a high cost. Coupled with the expected time it would take one person to do, the most cost effective method was to use the lowest quoted price for PAT testing. The opposite of this example relates to having our carpets cleaned. It is more cost effective to purchase our own carpet cleaner than have it carried out by a contractor. We have therefore purchased a carpet cleaner.

In conclusion, we operate Best Value in all aspects of school life and the continual examination of these aspects ensure 'Value for Money' is in the ethos of Glen Hills.



Policy	<i>Best Value Statement</i>
Reviewing Committee	<i>Management Committee</i>
Last Reviewed	2016