



## TOLWORTH GIRLS' SCHOOL & SIXTH FORM

### BEST VALUE STATEMENT

#### 1 Introduction

- The Governing Body is accountable for the way in which the Academy's resources are allocated to meet the Academy's objectives. Governors need to secure the best possible outcome for students, in the most efficient and effective way, at a reasonable cost.

#### 2 What Is Best Value?

- Governors will apply the three principles of *best value*:
  - *Challenge* - Why and how is a service provided? Do we still need it? Can it be delivered differently?
  - *Compare* - How does the Academy's financial performance compare with all available information from other comparable Academies/Schools? How does this happen? How do Governors apply that principle?
  - *Compete* - How does the Academy secure efficient and effective services? Are services of appropriate quality, economic?

#### 3 The Governors' Approach

- In all these matters Governors will be especially careful of the distinction between the role of Governors to guide strategic direction of the school and the role of the Headteacher and Senior Leadership Team (SLT) to lead and manage the school.
- The Governors, school leaders and managers will apply the principles of best value when making decisions about:
  - the allocation of resources that best promote the aims and values of the Academy
  - the targeting of resources that best improves standards and the quality of provision
  - the use of resources that best support the various educational needs of all students

- Governors, school leaders and managers, will:
  - make comparisons with other/similar Academies/Schools using data provided by the LA and the Government
  - challenge proposals, examining them for effectiveness, efficiency, and cost
  - require suppliers to compete on grounds of cost, and quality/suitability of services/products/backup
- Governors and school managers: -
  - 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 involves substantial time or costs. Time wasted on minor improvements or savings can also distract management from more important or valuable areas.

#### **4 Staffing**

- Governors will consider the strategic way that school managers deploy staff to provide best value in terms of quality of teaching and quality of learning.

#### **5 Use of Premises and Resources**

- Governors will consider the strategic way that school managers deploy the physical resources of the Academy in terms of quality of teaching and quality of learning.

#### **6 Teaching & Learning**

- Governors will consider the strategic way that school managers evaluate the curriculum and the quality of teaching and learning so that the Academy provides:
  - a curriculum which meets the needs of students
  - teaching which builds on previous learning and has high expectations of children's achievement

#### **7 Purchasing**

- Governors will consider the strategic way that school managers develop procedures for obtaining goods and services which provide "best value" in terms of suitability, efficiency, time, and cost. Measures already in place include:

- 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 or services under £1,500 direct from known, reliable suppliers (e.g. stationery, small equipment)
- Endeavour to obtain two quotes for purchases / services between £1,500 and £4,999
- Obtain three quotes for purchases/services between £5,000 and £49,999
- Use competitive tendering procedures (e.g. for goods and services above £50,000)

## **8 Monitoring**

- These areas will be monitored for best value by:
  - Annual Budget Planning
  - Monthly Finance, Assets & Audit meetings
  - Analysis of financial data, e.g. bench mark data for similar Academies/Schools.
- The Governing Body will:
  - hold an annual development plan meeting
  - Review their “Best Value Statement” at the October meeting of Finance, Assets & Audit
  - Hold regular Finance, Assets & Audit meetings; these are sub committees of the full governing body. The minutes of these meetings will be available to Governors
  - The key points of the meetings will be reported to the full Governing Body