



BEST VALUE POLICY

VERSION 1

24/01/2018

Best Value Policy

Waveney Valley Academies Trust is accountable for the way in which the resources of its academies are allocated to meet the objectives set out in their development plans. The Trust Board need to secure the best possible outcome for students, in the most efficient and effective way, to secure continuous improvement in achievements and services.

The Trust is publicly accountable for its expenditure and the conduct of its affairs. In applying funds the Trust Board must have regard to value for money. It is evident that this does not necessarily mean the cheapest on offer. Consideration must be given to quality, suitability, availability, reliability of supplier and the terms available.

WHAT IS BEST VALUE?

To provide quality services at an acceptable cost the Trust Board will apply the four principles of *best value*:

- **Challenge:** Regularly review the functions of the Trust, challenging how and why services are provided and setting targets and performance indicators for improvement.
- **Compare:** Monitor outcomes of students and financial performance comparing with similar organisations.
- **Consult:** Consult appropriate stakeholders before major decisions are made.
- **Compete:** Promote fair competition through quotations and tenders to ensure that goods and services are secured in the most economic, efficient and effective way.

The Trustees and Academy 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 students.

The Trustees and Academy Leaders will:

- Make comparisons with other/similar trusts using data provided by the ESFA.
- Challenge proposals, examining them for effectiveness, efficiency and cost.
- Require suppliers to compete on grounds of cost and quality/suitability of services/products.
- Consult individuals and organisations on quality/suitability of service we provide to parents and students and services we receive from providers.

This will apply in particular to:

- Quality of teaching
- Quality of learning
- Health and safety
- Staffing
- Use of premises
- Use of resources
- Purchasing

- Student's welfare

The Trustees and Academy Leaders will not waste disproportionate time and resources:-

- to investigate minor areas where few improvements can be achieved
- to make minor savings in costs
- to seek 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 from more important or valuable areas.

TEACHING

Trustees and Academy Leaders will review the quality of curriculum provision and quality of teaching, to provide parents and students with:

- A curriculum which meets the requirements of the National Curriculum and the needs of the students.
- Teaching which builds on previous learning and has high expectations of student's achievement.

LEARNING

Trustees and Academy Leaders will review the quality of student's learning by cohort, class and group to provide teaching which enables children to achieve the best possible outcomes.

HEALTH & SAFETY

Trustees and Academy 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 students, staff and visitors.

STAFFING

Trustees and Academy Leaders will deploy staff to provide best value in terms of quality of teaching, quality of learning, adult-student ratio and curriculum management. Teaching and support staff structures will continually be reviewed to ensure that the school is making the most of the staff in place.

USE OF PREMISES

Trustees and Academy Leaders 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. All areas will be continually evaluated to obtain the best possible usage.

USE OF RESOURCES

Trustees and Academy Leaders will deploy equipment, materials and services to provide students and staff with resources which support quality of teaching and quality of learning.

PURCHASING

Trustees and Academy Leaders will develop procedures for assessing need and obtaining goods and services which provide "best value" in terms of suitability, efficiency, time and cost.

STUDENTS' WELFARE

Trustees and Academy Leaders will review the quality of the academy environments, to ensure they are conducive to learning and recreation.

Equality Impact Assessment

Under the Equality Act 2010 we have a duty not to discriminate against people on the basis of their age, disability, gender, gender identity, pregnancy or maternity, race, religion or belief and sexual orientation.

This policy has been equality impact assessed and we believe that it is in line with the Equality Act 2010 as it is fair, it does not prioritise or disadvantage any student and it helps to promote equality within this trust.

Approval Date	24.01.2018	Review Date	23.01.2019
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