

The Value for Money judgement made on a school is a composite of effectiveness and efficiency in relation to costs.

Overall effectiveness takes into account the characteristics of the school and the background of its pupils.

Unit costs of the school take into account the efficiency with which the school is run.

Our school will apply best value principles in arriving at decisions regarding how financial resources are managed. We will:

- Compare
- Challenge
- Consult
- Compete

Compare

The government's vision is of the autonomous, self-managing school that applies its resources in a way that ensures they have most impact on children's learning.

Consistent financial reporting will give governors and staff a national benchmarking tool against which we can compare how our school deploys resources relative to other similar schools. Having clearer information will also help governors spend more of their time focusing on the impact of financial decisions on standards.

Currently, information supplied by the L.E.A. is useful in comparing our deployment of resources with other schools in the L.E.A., and the Audit Commission supplies comparative information on the internet.

Challenge

The principle of challenge refers to our school's performance in relation to others and the setting of challenging targets for improvement in all areas. The principle also refers to how we use resources and how they could be used more effectively to raise standards, for example, our use of staffing to improve pupil attainment.

Consult

The principle of consultation is embodied in our procedures for encouraging parents to give their views, for example, through the annual questionnaires and parents' comments box. Their views are sought frequently on any major changes in the use of resources which may affect the teaching and learning opportunities provided. During our annual whole school supported self-evaluation and our School Development Planning cycle all stakeholders are consulted.

The children's School Council also gives a valuable vehicle for the children to express their views.

Compete

This principle applies to how we secure economic, efficient and effective services. Regular evaluations of what the school provides are carried out to see whether it could be supplied to an acceptable standard at a more competitive price through another provider.

Care is also taken to keep track of our resources and to annually review our Asset Management Plan.

The Finance and Governors and Headteacher will also annually review our effectiveness and efficiency using the methods outlined in this policy and by using 'The Finances Self-Evaluation Tool'. (www.schools.audit-commission.gov.uk).

This policy is part of a Frieth School Finance policy and will be reviewed annually in September.