

# PARKINSON LANE COMMUNITY PRIMARY SCHOOL

Staffing, Premises & Finance Policies

## Best Value Statement

### **Introduction**

The governors and staff of Parkinson Lane CP School are committed to the application of the principles of Best Value to all areas of the work of the school. These are consistent with and reinforce the culture of self-evaluation that is part of the ethos of the school. During 2018-19 this commitment will take the forms detailed below.

### **Challenge**

The individual pupil progress tracking system will continue to be used to set and monitor individual targets in key subjects for every child from Nursery to Year 6. This is despite the move to assessing without levels. The children will share in this target-setting and evaluative process. Parents will be advised of and encouraged to support their children's progress through termly reports and meetings with staff. Governors will be apprised of the target setting process and the progress being made through twice yearly presentations by staff.

Staff and Governors will review tracking projections in the light of FFT data predictions with a view to Governors setting aspirational and challenging targets for KS2 attainment. Targets will always be set above Government Floor Targets.

In working to improve the quality of teaching and learning in all areas of the curriculum through the use of our tracking data and more subjective assessments, all staff continue to contribute to the testing of hypotheses for every learning group and curriculum subject, examples include the effectiveness of use of drama or of direct experiential learning. In addition staff and governors focus each year on the development of select areas of the curriculum. During 2017/18 the focus was on Literacy, Music, PE. In 2017/18 the focus will be on ICT, Geog/Hist, PSHCE. In recent years we have placed great emphasis on trying to give our children as wide a range as possible of direct experiences of different types of environment. Trips and visits play an important role in almost all areas of the curriculum. Our 3 minibuses work out cheaper than commercial hire and have given greater flexibility and reliability. Again this year we tested our holiday arrangements for safe parking of the buses against LA charges.

In 2017/18 we will be going to Cornwall for our residential trip following our successful trip to Bosnia in 2016/17. These trips are for gifted and talented children to build on the successes of previous trips to Edinburgh, London, Italy, Paris, Germany, Amsterdam and Bruges. These trips have been outstanding value for money. Savings were made in all aspects of the trip and most were a result of seeking best value on the risk assessment. It also enabled the school to personalise the visit and make it relevant to our children. The trip was also subsidised by a donation from the PTA. School will be working on elements of Community Cohesion.

All staff will agree with their line management performance targets and will review these with their manager(s) twice yearly. The Governors' Staffing and Finance Committee continues to review issues around the deployment of staff

particularly making sure that teachers and teaching assistants are used in the ways that have the most positive impact on learning as well as maintaining our early achievement of fully implementing the standards associated with workforce remodelling.

The Governing Body is using the new OFSTED framework to challenge our assessments of the quality of everything done in school. In 2011/12 school received a Grade 1 in all areas with Ofsted. "Parkinson Lane is an outstanding school providing excellent value for money. A vibrant, friendly and welcoming learning environment, dedicated staff and the plethora of enrichment opportunities available to its pupils epitomise the school's aim and motto, "To stand out from the outstanding." In 2015, school completed an internal Ofsted exercise with the findings being that school remains at "Outstanding".

The school will continue actively to seek external scrutiny of its work and achievements through a rolling programme of formal assessments. Over the last few years school has achieved International Schools Award, the Schools Financial Value Standard, National Leaders for Education, National Support School, Artsmark Gold, International School Award, School Achievement Award, Healthy Schools, Investors in Pupils and Quality in study support, and Calderdale Teaching School Alliance lead.

We actively solicit feedback from the colleges that place trainee teachers with us and from the growing number of visitors to the school. We also expect increased feedback from our increasing openness to and visibility in the community as we continue to develop community initiatives such as our drama and dancing performances in other schools and public spaces, our programme of community events and trips.

### **Compare**

The outdoor area was in need of re-surfacing and levelling. Once our Governors looked into this it was decided that it would actually be better value to have the areas replaced with Artificial Lawns. The cost of these Artificial Lawns in total has been £45,646. However, the money this will save in the long term will be evident in no longer needing to book out facilities from another provider and having the ability to hold sporting events on our own pitches. Money has also been saved from the re-surfacing and levelling work as this was accomplished as part of this venture. This also addressed our asset management plan (which is outdated).

We continue to use the internet to seek relevant benchmarks to guide our work on Best Value.

We continue to use informal discussions through governor and head teacher networks, such as the Schools Financial Value Standard to make comparisons of different aspects of our performance with those of similar schools.

In reviewing our recent major capital investment, the creation of a dance studio and roof top garden, this has already had a positive impact on the future of Parkinson Lane School. Dance and rehearsals for the community event have taken place in this dance studio. Also the roof top garden has given children the additional outdoor facility whilst being in a safe environment. Both of these facilities have also enabled school to increase the oosh clubs offered to pupils.

There is a new building project planning to commence this year which will create extra room in the lunch hall due to increased pupil numbers. Also two entrances will be updated to fit in with the ethos and vision of the school in moving forward with the times.

We continue wherever possible to cover our supply need internally. This is done through part-time teachers or the help of ASTAs. The value added is having teachers who are known to school and know the ethos and children. It also eliminates being charged additional agency fees.

### **Consult**

All school staff are actively involved in the drafting of the School Improvement Plan and the annual process of completing the OFSTED self-evaluation form. Governors contribute to the section on leadership and governance and the School Council also contributes to relevant areas. We continue the practice whereby one or more members of the Governing body meets with the School Council at least once every term.

Although no longer a legal requirement, Governors continue to hold an annual meeting and to produce a report to parents. This frank exchange of views on achievements and future plans is valued by parents and around 50 attended the last meeting in October 2017. Staff and governors take an active role in our PTA. This is another means by which our parents are involved in planning and decision-making on a variety of aspects of school life. Parents are also kept informed through highly attractive termly newsletters. Although colour printing has made these more costly to produce, we consider the gains in parental awareness and involvement to fully justify this cost.

In 2016 all parents were invited to give views on the performance of the school using a questionnaire. This gives the advantages of parent familiarity and the possibility of comparing the results with our two previous surveys. These were some of the quotes from that exercise:

“School is more than we have hoped for. We are so pleased with the care and attention that is given to our children.”

“The teachers are fantastic. Thank you for helping my son.”

“Thank you so much for the support and encouragement given to my child, it is really appreciated.”

### **Compete**

We follow Local Authority procedures on procurement and require cost comparisons for purchases where formal competitive tendering is not required.

In line with Calderdale Council guidelines on capital spending we make extensive use of professional advice, particularly on building maintenance and construction projects, in order to ensure we comply with procurement procedures, to secure value for money, to make appropriate use of specialists and to protect ourselves and others from potential litigation.

**Statement examined by our Staffing & Finance Committee on  
Approved by the Full Governing Body at our meeting on**

Signed:

**Chair of Governors**