



Financial Management Policy

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Financial Management Policy			
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Statement of intent

At Barnfield Primary School, the governing body is committed to ensuring sound financial controls are in place and all expenditure is in line with best value principles.

All staff and governors are required to comply with this Finance Policy, which sets out the framework within which the school conducts its finances.

All parties concerned are expected to be aware of their responsibilities with regard to sound internal financial controls. The implementation of the following practices and procedures will ensure that funds are efficiently used to enhance pupils' education.

Aims

- All procurement arrangements achieve value for money.
- There are sound procedures in place for administering payroll and personnel matters.
- All income is identified, and all collections receipted, recorded and banked promptly.
- The school is adequately insured against exposure to risk.
- The school provides training in financial administration to relevant members of staff.

1. Legal framework

1.1. This policy has due regard to relevant legislation and statutory guidance including, but not limited to, the following:

- London Borough of Barnet's Scheme for Financing Schools September 2019
- Financial Guide for Schools
- Data Protection Act 2018
- Contract Standing Orders
- DfE Consistent Financial Reporting
- General Data Protection Regulation
- DfE (2018) 'Charging for school activities'
- DfE (2019) 'Schemes for financing schools'
- DfE (2018) 'What maintained schools must publish online'
- Section 48 of the School Standards and Framework Act 1998

2. Governor responsibilities

2.1. The governing body has overall responsibility for the management of the school's delegated finances, including the setting of the school budget, which will be spent according to the Local Authority's scheme for financing schools. Specifically, it will be spent:

- For the purposes of the school (usually for the educational benefit of pupils).
- For the benefit of pupils in other schools.

2.2. The governing body will make sure its budget is reflective of the school's educational objectives, and that it is linked to the School Improvement Plan.

2.3. The governing body is responsible for developing a financial plan which establishes best value principles. This may be done by:

- Using the information gained from school leaders to challenge performance and set new targets.
- Using financial benchmarking to compare expenditure across schools of a similar size, structure and demographic.
- Using performance data to compare attainment across similar schools and against schools nationally.
- Consulting relevant stakeholders on policy developments.
- Ensuring resources and contracts for goods and services are secured in the most economic and efficient way by using fair and transparent quotation and tender processes.
- Working together with other schools to generate efficiencies by pooling funding, jointly purchasing services, sharing staff and facilities, etc.
- Driving up financial efficiencies by committing to appropriately and adequately resourcing CPD for the governing body to ensure governors are skilled in holding school leaders to account for the financial performance of the school.

- 2.4. The governing body will demonstrate compliance with the value for money requirements of their Dedicated Schools Grant, through the annual submission of the schools' financial value standard (SFVS).
- 2.5. The governing body will identify and request the financial information needed to ensure spending is in line with projections.
- 2.6. The governing body will ensure that the pupil premium and the PE and sport premium funding is spent on improving participation and attainment for eligible pupils.
- 2.7. The governing body will consider information presented by the headteacher, finance and premises committee and/or the SBL concerning financial matters, including when considering the SFVS.
- 2.8. The governing body is responsible for maintaining an up-to-date register of pecuniary interests annually. Each governor and attendee will declare any interests at the beginning of each full governing body or committee meeting.
- 2.9. The governing body may delegate financial responsibilities to the finance and premises committee. All responsibilities delegated to the committee will be outlined in its terms of reference. The committee will record any decisions made in the meeting minutes, and report to the full governing body at every full governing body meeting.

3. Headteacher responsibilities

- 3.1. The headteacher will be responsible for implementing the decisions of the governing body.
- 3.2. The headteacher will work with the SBL to put together a three-year budget forecast.
- 3.3. The headteacher will work with the finance service account to draft and monitor the annual budget.
- 3.4. The headteacher will advise the governing body and provide the required information that assists them with developing the school's financial plan and the annual budget.
- 3.5. The headteacher will be responsible for ensuring that all monies controlled by the school are handled in accordance with LA regulations and sound financial practice.
- 3.6. The headteacher will be responsible for overseeing staff dealing with finances and ensuring that procedures are carried out accurately.
- 3.7. The administration of financial procedures may be delegated to the finance and premises committee, SBL or other members of staff, and the details of this delegation will be recorded in this policy.

4. Finance and premises committee responsibilities

- 4.1. The governing body has delegated responsibilities to the finance and premises committee in the following areas of financial management:
- Agree and monitor a three-year budget plan which is clearly linked to the SDP
 - Maintain and review the Finance Policy annually
 - Keep in-school financial procedures under review
 - Assist with the annual budget for approval by the governing body.
 - Tender for contract services
 - Monitor the financial position of the school
 - Review the Pay Policy annually for approval by the governing body
 - Endorse decisions in respect of service agreements and insurance.
 - Monitor the impact of the planned spending of the pupil premium and PE and sports premium, and ensure spending is compliant with the funding guidelines
- 4.2. The above delegated responsibilities will be documented in the finance and premises committee's terms of reference.

5. School Business Leader (SBL) responsibilities

- 5.1. The SBL will provide reports, as requested, on current school accounts to the finance and premises committee and governing body.
- 5.2. The SBL will make sure that orders, invoices and other financial documents are processed according to established procedures.
- 5.3. The SBL will be responsible for checking the accuracy of information and providing regular reports to the headteacher and governing body.
- 5.4. The SBL will be responsible for the financial management system and all financial and personnel papers. They will ensure that only authorised staff members have access to personnel files, and that arrangements to access their own files are in place in line with the GDPR and the Data Protection Act (DPA) 2018.
- 5.5. The SBL will be responsible for supporting the Office Manager in overseeing a list of all assets.
- 5.6. The SBL will support the Office manager in maintaining a secure list of all bank accounts and the signatories for each.
- 5.7. The SBL will work with financial services to check monthly bank statements and investigate possible errors in conjunction with financial consultant.
- 5.8. The SBL will advise the headteacher on matters of financial administration or maladministration.

6. Other members of staff responsibilities

- 6.1. Teaching staff will be responsible for ensuring that their subject budgets are managed within agreed procedures.
- 6.2. Both teaching and non-teaching staff are encouraged to alert the headteacher or governing body if areas of concern arise in respect of the school's financial affairs.

7. Internal financial controls

- 7.1. To ensure sound financial control, school monies are to be properly monitored in accordance with the requirements of the LA and the principles below:
 - The person requiring a product or service will raise an internal order.
 - The Head or AHT will check the budget and authorise the raised order.
 - The Office Manager will process and sign for the receipt of goods.
 - Goods received will be checked against each order by the person requiring them.
 - The financial consultant will process the invoice and update the accounts.
 - The authorised signatories for the school are as follows: the headteacher, the deputy headteacher, and the assistant headteacher.
 - All school cheques will have two signatures. Cheques will not be pre-signed under any circumstances, and only manuscript signatures will be used.
 - Provided that the overall budget allocation is not exceeded, the headteacher may authorise unavoidable expenditure (e.g. energy costs) that exceeds budget allocation; however, they will inform either the governing body or the finance and premises committee at the next available meeting when the variance is in excess of £500.
 - The school will not enter into financial agreements with loan agreements or capital implications without the prior approval of the LA or appropriate body.
 - Accounting records will be securely stored in accordance with the GDPR and the DPA 2018, and only authorised staff will have access to them.
 - Monies kept in the school will be secured safely in a locked safe.

Member of staff	Cheques	Orders	BACS Payments	Inventory
Headteacher	Sign	Sign	Authorise	Authorising write-offs
Deputy Headteacher	Sign	N/A	Authorise	N/A
SBL	N/A	N/A	N/A	Oversee the administration and annual report
Assistant Headteacher	Sign	Sign	N/A	N/A
Finance service	Process	Process	Process	Provide information for inventory system

8. Financial planning

Early Autumn term		
Ensuring procedural compliance	Ensuring accountability	Ensuring financial compliance and efficiency
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Elect the chairman and the vice chairman for the finance and premises committee • Review and agree the structure and terms of reference for the finance and premises committee • Agree meeting dates for finance and premises committee meetings 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review and agree the SDP, including costings and resource allocations • Receive the headteacher's report and ensure challenge is recorded 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review the asset management plan • Receive a report from the SBL and ensure challenge is recorded
Late Autumn term		
Ensuring procedural compliance	Ensuring accountability	Ensuring financial compliance and efficiency
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Receive and consider a pupil premium report and impact statement • Review the impact of allocated resources on school development priorities • Receive the headteacher's report to governors and ensure challenge is recorded 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Receive a report from the SBL and ensure challenge is recorded • Review the Risk Register • Receive information from the Autumn term census data • Pay panel to review teaching and non-teaching staff salaries, proposed increments and appraisal process • Undertake a school financial health check to evaluate how funding is distributed • Complete the Governor Monitoring Checklist for Financial Efficiency

Spring term		
Ensuring procedural compliance	Ensuring accountability	Ensuring financial compliance and efficiency
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Receive the headteacher's report to governors and ensure challenge is recorded • Review the impact of allocated resources on school development priorities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure the submission of the SFVS by 31st January • Receive and agree the draft budget • Receive a report from the SBL and ensure challenge is recorded • Receive information from the Spring term census data • Receive a report on and review service level agreements and traded services as appropriate
Summer term		
Ensuring procedural compliance	Ensuring accountability	Ensuring financial compliance and efficiency
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review number on roll for September 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Receive the headteacher's report and ensure challenge is recorded • Receive the PE and sports premium impact report • Monitor the impact of allocated resources to school development priorities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Approve budget and submit to the LA by 31st May • Draft the financial scheme of delegation in time for Autumn term • Receive information from the Summer term census data

8.1. The annual budget includes the following:

- The value of any contracts awarded by the school.
- Cost of expected teaching staff.
- Cost of support staff, including office staff, teaching assistants, learning mentors and other staff at an agreed level.
- Supply cover to an affordable level.
- Building requirements as set out in the Premises Development Plan.
- Insurances as agreed with the finance and premises committee.
- Energy units based on the previous year's figures and the inflation element.
- Any other commitments.

9. Virements

9.1. When virements need to be carried out, they will be noted in the minutes of finance and premises committee minutes appropriately and require the following authorisation:

- Virements up to £30,000 – the headteacher, reported to the finance and premises committee.
- Virements from £30,000 - £100,000 – the finance and premises committee.
- Virements in excess of £100,000 – the governing body.

10. Monitoring

10.1. Income and expenditure are regularly monitored against the agreed budget for the year. Specifically, the headteacher and the SBL will:

- Carry out a monthly internal monitoring procedure.
- Report on finances to the governing body at termly meetings.

10.2. Annual consistent financial reporting returns are completed and sent to the LA.

10.3. Annual SFVS returns are ratified and signed by the governing body prior to submission to the LA

10.4. The headteacher and SBL will cooperate with the LA's audit requirements.

11. Income

11.1. All income shall be recorded at the point of receipt in a form approved by the headteacher.

11.2. Official receipts will be created for all official income when it is received.

11.3. Personal cheques will not be cashed from income.

12. Payroll

- 12.1. The payroll provider at Barnfield Primary School is EPM.
- 12.2. The headteacher authorises the monthly payroll reports once they are checked for accuracy by the finance service accountant.

13. Staffing

- 13.1. The headteacher has responsibility for overseeing personnel matters.
- 13.2. As part of the annual budget, the staffing structure and its affordability will be reviewed and the outcome considered by the governing body and noted in the minutes of the meeting.
- 13.3. The SBL and Finance service accountant will be responsible for approving the weekly and monthly timesheets and overtime payments by cross-referencing the Pay Policy.
- 13.4. An annual review of salaries, in accordance with the STPCD, will be carried out in line with the Pay Policy. The findings will be submitted to the full governing body for approval.
- 13.5. Staff requirements, such as any reasonable adjustments requested, with detailed costs will be submitted to the staffing committee for approval prior to the start of each academic year and prior to employing additional staff.

14. Governor payments

- 14.1. Governors will not be paid for their services to the governing body (unless the Secretary of State believes this is in the best interests of the school following intervention).
- 14.2. The school will pay an allowance or expenses to its governors and any associate members where a cost is incurred in the performance of their duties, such as travel and childcare, in accordance with the Local Authority's Governors' Allowance Policy.
- 14.3. The school will not refund governors or associate members for any loss of earnings incurred through the attendance of meetings.

15. Contracts

- 15.1. A contract refers to a signed agreement for the provision of goods and/or services over a period of time. The procedures with regard to contracts are:
 - Any contract in excess of £100,000 will be examined and referred to the full governing body at the next meeting.
 - With any proposed contract, quotations will be obtained from at least three suppliers.
 - All contracts will:

- Specify the subject matter, price, contract period, contract specification and terms of payment.
- Contain a clause permitting cancellation when there is a failure to meet contractual terms.
- Require compliance with any British Standard specification code.
- Indemnify the school against any claim which may be made in respect of personal injury to any person due to negligence by the school and against any claim for damage due to negligence of the contractor, and the contractor shall provide evidence of insurance against such claims.

The school will always seek best value for money and take into consideration price, quality and fitness for purpose when purchasing goods and services.

16. Purchasing

16.1. All staff will comply with the procedures for purchasing items.

16.2. The headteacher (or in his absence the deputy headteacher) authorises all invoices prior to payment.

16.3. When selecting contractors for work:

- Less than £10,000 No special rules apply. The school will endeavour to obtain two competitive quotations and the selection is approved by the headteacher.
- £10,000 - £75,000 - Two competitive quotations to be obtained, approved by the finance and premises committee and reported to the governing body.
- £75,001 - £181,301 - Three or more tender submissions need to be obtained (at least two of which must follow specified procedures), approved by the finance and premises committee and reported to the governing body.
- £181,302 - Five or more written competitive quotations with a minimum of two returned. Contracts may be subject to EU procurement regulations.
- A contracts' file with details of tenders and quotations will be kept in the main office.

16.1. Orders above £50,000 will be reported and noted in the minutes at the next governing body meeting to ensure that the school is seen to obtain value for money with regard to its purchases.

17. Leases

17.1. The school will not enter into lease/purchase agreements without the prior approval of the finance and premises committee.

18. Assets

18.1. The ICT Leader will maintain an asset register containing all portable and desirable school assets and items above the value of £1,000.

18.2. The register will be checked annually by the headteacher, and reported to the finance and premises committee.

18.3. The write-off and disposal of assets with a value below £1,000 may be authorised by the headteacher. Any items above this value will be referred to the finance and premises committee for approval.

19. Insurance

19.1. The school will be insured for content and personal liability under the Local Authority's insurance policy.

20. The school business credit card and staff credit cards

20.1. The school currently utilises a NatWest One Card credit card and the monthly limit is £2,000.

20.2. The credit card will be issued and used in accordance with the school's Credit Card Policy.

20.3. The credit card will be stored in the school safe.

20.4. All credit card payments will be entered on an official order form.

20.5. Staff personal credit cards can be used to purchase products for the school. Receipts must be provided and expenditure clearly itemised on a claim form.

21. Charging for school activities

21.1. The school **will not** charge for the following (as outlined in detail in the Charging and Remissions Policy):

- Admission applications
- Education provided during school hours, or outside school hours if it is part of the national curriculum
- Instrumental or vocal tuition, except if it is provided at the request of a child's parent
- Entry for a prescribed public examination or for resits
- Transporting children to or from school premises, where the LA has a statutory obligation to provide the transport
- Transporting children to other premises where the governing body or LA has arranged for children to be educated
- Transporting children to meet an examination requirement
- Transport for an educational visit
- Education provided on any visit that takes place during school hours, or outside school hours if it is part of the national curriculum, the syllabus for a prescribed examination or religious education
- Cover is provided for teachers accompanying children on visits

21.2. The school may charge parents for the following:

- Materials, books, instruments or equipment where the child's parents desire him/her to own them
- Optional extras

- Musical and vocational tuition, where it is provided at the request of a child's parent
- Early years provision that meets all the following criteria:
 - It is for children who are below compulsory school age
 - It is for full time places that are not eligible for the 30 hour funding
 - It is not provided in pursuance of the LA's duty to secure prescribed early years provision free of charge
 - It is not otherwise funded by the LA as part of the school's budget share
- Community facilities

21.3. The school may invite voluntary contributions for activities such as school trips and school journeys from parents. When doing so, the school will make it clear that these contributions are voluntary, and that children's participation in the activity is not dependent on whether parents contribute.

22. Pupil premium and PE/Sports Premium

22.1. The governing body will ensure that pupil premium funding is spent on improving attainment for eligible pupils, and will publish online:

- The school's pupil premium grant allocation for the current academic year.
- A summary of the main barriers to educational achievement faced by eligible pupils at the school.
- How the pupil premium allocation will be spent to address those barriers and the reasons for that approach.
- How the effect of the pupil premium will be measured
- The date of the next review of the school's pupil premium strategy
- How the previous academic year's allocation was spent.
- The impact this expenditure has had on the educational attainment of pupils who were allocated the pupil premium.

22.2. The governing body will ensure that the PE and sport premium is spent on improving participation and attainment for eligible pupils, and will publish online:

- The school's PE and sport premium allocation for the current academic year.
- A full breakdown of how it has been, or will be, spent.
- The impact that the school has seen on pupils' PE and sport participation and attainment because of the premium.
- How improvements in PE and sports participation and attainment will be sustained.
- How many pupils within the Year 6 cohort can do each of the following:
 - Swim competently, confidently and proficiently over a distance of at least 25 metres
 - Use a range of strokes effectively
 - Perform safe self-rescue in different water-based situations

22.3. If applicable the governing body will ensure that service premium payments are spent on improving attainment for eligible pupils.

23. School forums

- 23.1. The governing body and the headteacher will cooperate with the LA with the election of members to the schools' forum.
- 23.2. The governing body and the headteacher will, where it is within their limits, cooperate with any direction from the schools' forum, in relation to the expenditure of the school budget.

24. School premises

- 24.1. The governing body will be clear about who owns the land and buildings from which the school operates, including any leaseholds.
- 24.2. The governing body will ensure that the school meets the minimum standards for toilet and washing facilities, medical accommodation, health, safety and welfare, acoustics, lighting, water supplies and outdoor space, as outlined in relevant regulations.

25. Financial irregularities

- 25.1. The responsibility for the prevention and detection of fraud rests primarily with governors and the SLT, but all staff will recognise that robust financial management forms a key part of the school's values and culture, and that they should actively support those values and culture by:
 - Encouraging senior leaders to recognise and consider their financial management responsibilities.
 - Being vigilant to the signs of financial irregularity.
- 25.2. All members of staff will be aware of the school's whistleblowing policies and will be encouraged to come forward if they have any concerns regarding the management of school finances.
- 25.3. Any member of staff suspecting the occurrence of financial irregularity or fraud will notify the headteacher, who will advise on the appropriate action to be taken or investigate the matter; however, if it's the headteacher that is suspected of malpractice or financial irregularity, then staff must contact the chairman of governors instead.
- 25.4. The school will cooperate with LA monitoring of school finances, and will work with them to attempt to resolve any issues before formal action becomes necessary.

26. Retention of records and data protection

- 26.1. Financial records are archived for at least six years plus the current financial year, as per the school's Data Protection Policy and Records Management Policy.
- 26.2. The school's Data Protection Policy also requires that all personnel and payroll files are kept securely in a lockable filing cabinet, in a room that is locked when it is not occupied.

27. Monitoring and review

- 27.1. The governing body will review this policy on an annual basis in collaboration with the headteacher, who is responsible for communicating any changes to all members of staff.

28. Unofficial Funds

Barnfield do not hold any unofficial fund accounts.