



Livingstone Primary School – Annual Governance Statement

Annual Governance Statement for the Governing Body of Livingstone Primary School

November 2019

In accordance with the Government’s requirement for all governing bodies, the 3 core strategic functions of the Livingstone Primary School Governing Body are:

1. **Ensuring a clarity of vision, ethos and strategic direction;**
2. **Holding the Head Teacher to account for the educational performance of our school and its pupils;**
3. **The overseeing of the financial performance of the school and ensuring its money is well spent.**

Governance arrangements

The Governing Body of Livingstone Primary School was re-constituted in 2018 and comprises of 2 staff governors (including the Head Teacher), 4 elected Parent Governors, 4 Co-opted governors and one Local Authority Governor. There are currently no vacancies to be filled on the Governing Body. Co-opted governors are appointed by the Governing Body and are people who, in the opinion of the governing body, have the skills required to contribute to the effective governance and success of the school.

There have been a number of changes to personnel within the Governing Body over the last 12 months with a parent governor leaving early in 2019 and a co-opted governor leaving at the end of the academic year in July 2019. The parent governor role was filled by Ms Jemma Simpson in May 2019. In October 2019 Mr Martin Baines came to the end of his term as parent governor and was subsequently nominated for and appointed to the post of co-opted governor. The remaining parent governor space on the board was taken by Ms Caroline Campbell in October 2019.

At Livingstone Primary School we only operate with three committees, a Finance Committee, a Pay Committee and the Head Teacher’s Performance Committee. All other aspects of school affairs are discussed and managed by the full Governing Body on a monthly basis. The Finance Committee meet termly to review

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| | <p>school budget and projected spending, ensuring that the school achieves best value for pupils.</p> |
| <p>Attendance record of governors</p> | <p>Governors generally have a good attendance at meetings, although we are aware that it is not always possible to attend due to unforeseen circumstances, we have never had to cancel a meeting because it was not “quorate” (the number of governors needed to ensure that legal decisions can be made).</p> <p>Full details of governor attendance are posted on the Livingstone School website and are regularly updated.</p> |
| <p>The work that we have done on our committees and in the governing body</p> | <p>The Governing Body has had another exciting year, with the numbers on role increasing as the school gradually fills into its single form entry status.</p> <p>The school continues to positively promote themselves through media releases, engagement with and participation in local events within the local community and an open evening for parents and carers of prospective new pupils. The Governing Body is pleased to acknowledge the positive feedback from the community on the ethos and status of the school. This positive engagement led to a full allocation of new pupils joining the Reception class in September 2019 and increased numbers in Nursery.</p> <p>Throughout the year the Governing Body continued to work with school leaders and subject leads in monitoring progress against goals and targets within the School Improvement Plan. The 2019/20 School Improvement Plan has been reviewed and agreed with the school’s external School Improvement Partner. In order to better understand some of the metrics and data which underpin the reporting of progress and attainment, Governors have benefitted from data training and a review of ongoing results delivered by the Headteacher and Deputy Head. The Governing Body also reviews curriculum intent and oversees implementation of the curriculum through regular reports from subject leaders, providing both qualitative and quantitative measurement of impact on learning.</p> <p>Although it is understood that attainment levels in SATs do not necessarily reflect the effectiveness of teaching, it is acknowledged that the results can provide a good indicator of the ‘health’ of a school. The Governing Body is therefore very pleased</p> |

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| | <p>to note the continued excellent level of attainment by pupils at the school in these national tests.</p> <p>Staff development has continued throughout the year, through appropriate assessment and review of progress, with all necessary support provided where required. The Governing Body has also supported the school in the recruitment process for new staff coming into the school to join the teaching body.</p> <p>Governors continue to regularly discuss the progress and strategies for managing our “vulnerable groups” of children. This includes review and scrutiny of how the Pupil Premium money is spent by the school and how the school offers support to children with special needs.</p> <p>Health and Safety at the school is regularly reviewed by the Governing Body through a termly walkover of the premises with the school’s site manager. The school is due to be audited in November 2019.</p> <p>Governors are also particularly focused on child protection and safeguarding. All governors are required to attend safeguarding training or undertake online training as part of their role as governor. In addition to this, the Governing Body is also required to read and understand the implications of recent statutory government guidance, ‘<i>Keeping Children safe in Education</i>’. This guidance sets out the legal duties to be followed in order to safeguard and promote the welfare of children and young people in school.</p> <p>The Governing Body regularly reviews and approves school policies. This year we have considered a number of key policies and have updated a number following the implementation of GDPR.</p> <p>Minutes of Governing Body and Committee meetings are public documents and you can ask at the school office if you would like to see any of the minutes of our meetings.</p> |
| <p>Future plans for the governors</p> | <p>We are focussed on supporting the school in managing strategic and financial management aspects of operating the school. The Governing Body feel that it is fundamental that the ethos of the school is integral in this management process, maintaining the</p> |

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| | <p>continued positive publicity of the school in the local community.</p> <p>The Governing Body will continue to monitor and discuss the requirements of children with special needs and how the school manages these needs both practically and financially. It is noted that the proportion of children within the school requiring bespoke services is significantly higher than other primary schools both within Tameside and nationally.</p> <p>Governors will also continue to support school leaders in any staffing recruitment and other resourcing strategies.</p> |
| <p>How you can contact the governing body</p> | <p>The Governing Body always welcome suggestions, feedback and ideas from parents – please contact the Chair of Governors, Mr Baines, via the school office.</p> <p>You can see the full list of governors; their attendance at meetings; and more information about what we do, on the Governors’ page of the school website.</p> |