



## Chair's Report

Spring Term 2020

Please find below our Spring 2020 Term report for Livingstone Primary Governing Body.

### **WHAT DO WE DO AS GOVERNORS**

The school's Governing Body provides strategic leadership and accountability in the school, both supporting and challenging the school management team. We are tasked with three core strategic functions:

- Setting the vision, ethos and strategic direction of the school;
- Holding the Head Teacher to account for the school's educational performance; and
- Ensuring financial resources are well spent.

### **THE YEAR TO DATE**

Operationally, the numbers on roll have continued to rise organically, filling some of the available spaces in classes as we finalise transition to single form entry. Intake numbers for Nursery and Reception classes remain positive and it is expected that the school will ultimately be at or near capacity as these cohorts rise through the school.

The Governing Body had been operating at capacity, with all posts filled, from October 2019. when a new Co-opted Governor, Ms Janeeta Morar, was appointed to replace Mary Wilson who has opted to resign.

Aside from the routine responsibilities of the Governing Body there have been a number of areas of focus where we have worked with school leaders in decision making and ensuring appropriate support and strategies are in place:

- Financial and budgetary management following the move to single form entry and the potential effect of changes to national school funding policy
- Management of SEN pupil numbers
- Development of new curriculum plan focussing on intent, implementation and impact

The Governing Body feel strongly that the ethos of the school is remains integral to the management process, and we continue to be pleased with local perceptions of the school in Mossley. This is reflected in the choices made by parents and carers in selecting Livingstone as the preferred option for their child.

Ongoing financial review and modelling over coming years shows that as pupil numbers continue to increase, this will meet the financial requirements for future budgeting of the school. Governors and the Finance Team have confidence in the transition process and the budget forecasts for the next three years. The finance committee has met on a regular basis and have agreed the budget plans for next year, including financial modelling for the next three to five years and changes to the national funding policy.

The Governing Body continues to be provided with regular monthly updates in respect to the number of Special Educational Needs (SEN) pupils that are on roll in the school. The number of pupils at Livingstone with or applying for an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP) continues to be significantly higher than national average, which introduces significant resourcing and financial issues for the school to manage. Although management of pupils with SEN continues to challenge school resources and finances, Governors are satisfied that the long-term plans for care of these pupils is being well managed by the school.

The school leaders and Governing Body continue to monitor pupil achievement and progress. Data relating to the current respective cohorts have been discussed at length in monthly meetings and the Governing Body are aware of where there are strengths and weaknesses in the various pupil groups. Governors are satisfied that the school have provided all the support possible for pupils and that the reasons for any lower than average achievement or under-performing cohorts are well understood.

The Governing Body continues to work with school leaders in monitoring progress against goals and targets within the current School Improvement Plan. Where areas for improvement have been identified these have been raised and discussed with the Governing Body and where required, support has been put into place. Staff development has continued throughout the year, through appropriate assessment and review of progress, with all necessary support provided where required.

Regular meetings are held with our School Improvement Partner who provides external review of the school leadership and performance. Previous actions from these meetings have been agreed as being achieved and further goals set to continue to move the school forward in terms of leadership and performance.

Teachers continue to moderate regularly within school and across the Mossley and Carrbrook Schools' Partnership (MCSP). The Partnership works together at all levels from leadership to class teachers and subject leads. The school continues to share joint training, resources and support where appropriate.

Pupil Premium monies continues to be used for funding of intervention teaching and continues to help with the provision of Support Staff through school and extracurricular activities.

Sports premium continues to fund working with a coach from Active Tameside who operates across all schools in the Mossley area. This approach allows the coach to specialise on the same sport each half term for all schools and facilitate the running of local competitions. Funding is also used to improve and replace equipment and resources used for PE and for top-up swimming lessons.

## **LIVINGSTONE'S GOVERNING BODY**

The Governing Body has been stable this year, with the Co-opted Governor vacancy filled late in 2019 and a new parent governor appointed to the Governing Board. We thank all current and past members of the Governing Body for their time and their hard work, including the valued work of Mary Wilson who resigned late in 2019.

## **POLICY APPROVAL**

We have approved and updated a number of mandatory school policies this year which include data protection, Health and Safety, prevent duty and SEND policies. The school currently works

with an external party to ensure that Livingstone is compliant and all policies reflect requirements set out under GDPR.

## **FINALLY**

All on the Governing Body remain committed to ensuring the success of every student in the school, whatever their strengths and aspirations. We are all very proud to be associated with such a vibrant and friendly school.

We always welcome feedback from parents, carers, staff, students and members of the community.

The Governing Body would like to thank the Head, Senior Leadership Team and all staff at Livingstone for their continued commitment to the success and wellbeing of all the students in the school.