



## Chair's Report

Summer Term 2025

Please find below the 2025 Spring 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 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.

Meetings continue to be held on a twice-termly basis throughout the year and the finance committee meet three times annually with exceptional meetings when and if required.

### **GOVERNING BODY**

This term has been a significant and transitional one as we see the culmination of a great deal of work by governors and the senior leadership team (SLT) at Livingstone to begin the process of joining Stamford Park Trust as an academy. Alongside this, the Governing Body has continued to carry out its statutory duties, ensuring the school remains a safe, inclusive, and aspirational environment for all our children.

Academisation has been a topic for regular discussion at Governing Body meetings for at least the past two years. For any school, the decision to become an academy is not a trivial one. But we head into the next academic year confident that this happy and caring school will continue to grow, learn and achieve together under its new academy status.

The reason for this confidence is the huge amount of time that Governors and staff at Livingstone have spent carefully considering if, and then how, academisation would be best for our children. This has been followed by detailed analysis of how can we make sure that the right Trust can provide us with opportunities to grow whilst the unique atmosphere and character of our brilliant school is unaffected by this change.

The Governing Body formally resolved to proceed with the academisation process in Autumn. There has followed an extensive consultation and engagement period with staff, parents, and the wider community. Governors have worked closely with the SLT and with Stamford Park Trust to navigate the operational, legal, and strategic steps required for a smooth and successful transition. I want to record my sincere thanks to colleagues on the Governing Body for their diligence and focus, as well as to senior leaders at Stamford Park who have been generous with their time. CEO Anton McGrath has been attending our Governing Board meetings and we have had the opportunity to question and challenge him and other representatives from the Trust, ensuring that our decision to join Stamford Park Trust is in the best interests of our pupils, staff, and families. We have been encouraged by how the Trust's values align closely with ours, their emphasis on collaborative school improvement, professional development for staff, and safeguarding the unique identity of each member school. It is heartening to note that the more we get to know Stamford Park, the more we like them!

While the structural change to our school in becoming an academy is significant, the Governing Body as well as Stamford Park remain committed to ensuring that the ethos, culture, and vision of Livingstone Primary School are preserved and strengthened in this new phase.

## **STATUTORY DUTIES AND CORE GOVERNANCE FUNCTIONS**

Even amid our focus on academisation, governors have remained committed to our statutory duties and the three core strategic functions of school governance:

### **Ensuring clarity of vision, ethos and strategic direction**

As a board we have continued to monitor progress against the school's improvement plan and will continue to support SLT in reviewing priorities in the context of upcoming structural change. Key areas of focus have included monitoring attendance, SEND provision, improving outcomes in writing across key stages and strengthening the school's approach to equity and inclusion.

### **Holding school leaders to account for the educational performance of the school and its pupils**

We have continued to hold leaders to account for the progress and attainment of all pupils. We review pupil progress data and are able to question the headteacher through the termly report which provides a broad and detailed overview of activities. Particular attention has been given to the continued development and refining of the curriculum, with governors reassured by the evidence-based interventions in place and the positive trajectory of pupil outcomes.

### **Overseeing the financial performance of the school and making sure money is well spent**

The Finance Committee has maintained excellent and at times detailed oversight of the school's budget and spending, working with the School Business Manager and Headteacher to ensure robust financial planning. Governors approved the school's budget plan and reviewed efficiency measures ahead of the transition to a Trust-wide financial system. Our Finance Committee continues to be expertly and efficiently chaired and ran.

## **SAFEGUARDING AND WELLBEING**

Safeguarding remains a standing priority at all governing body meetings. Governors are assured that safeguarding systems remain robust and that staff continue to demonstrate vigilance and responsiveness in supporting pupil welfare.

We also commend the SLT and pastoral team for their proactive work around staff wellbeing and mental health, which continues to be front of mind for them. Governors recognise that transitions, both for pupils and staff, can bring challenges, and we are grateful to leaders for ensuring that appropriate support mechanisms are in place.

## **POLICY APPROVAL**

We have approved and updated a number of policies this year which include the SEND policy, Health and Safety policy, Complaints Procedure, and policies on children who are looked after.

The next year promises to be a challenge for all staff and governors as we embark on the new challenges facing us. I expect that as far as children and parents are concerned, little will seem to have changed. This is down to the dedication of everyone who works at Livingstone – teachers, teaching assistants, catering and facilities staff, office and other support staff. On behalf of the entire Governing Body: thank you.

Simon Wilde  
Chair of Governors  
June 2025