



Chair's Report

Spring Term 2022

Please find below the 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.

COVID19

As you are aware COVID19 was present in school at the start of the Spring term in January. As has been the case throughout the pandemic, the staff responded bravely and swiftly, classes were once again bubbled and teachers had to work on a dual basis, providing lessons in the classroom whilst also supporting children isolating at home. This was a difficult task and I would like to thank the staff for their efforts; it can't have been an easy start to the term for anybody. I think it is also important to highlight the bravery of the staff who continued to teach and fully support children in the classrooms at their own personal risk. Several staff members contracted COVID during this period but all staff members continued to provide an excellent level of education despite the inevitable risk that doing so presented.

During this period Governors have supported the school; discussing and agreeing plans for safe operation of the school; reviewing extensive risk assessments in line with changing government policy; considering all aspects of daily life and; continually reviewing the effectiveness of new measures with the school, in order to ensure the best possible outcomes for both pupils working from home and pupils remaining in school.

In line with government guidance, the separate COVID19 committee has continued to meet with the school leadership team on at least a fortnightly basis to review risk and operational challenges faced by the school.

All Governing Body and committee meetings have been held virtually since the end of March 2020 and will continue to be held in this manner until guidance is given from government indicating that it is safe to meet face to face.

GOVERNING BODY

The Governing Body has been operating at capacity; one parent governor has renewed their term as a governor. Good attendance of those on the Governing Body has been observed at full Governing Body meetings and committee meetings. Meetings have been held on a twice termly basis throughout the year and the finance committee meets three times annually.

Aside from the routine responsibilities of the Governing Body, we have focussed with school leaders on certain key areas to better understand and support the school in decision making and ensuring appropriate support and strategies are in place:

- Supporting the school through the current COVID19 crisis;
- Management of SEN pupil numbers; and
- Financial and budgetary management and the potential effect of changes to national school funding policy.

The Governing Body feel strongly that the ethos of the school remains integral to the management process and we have supported the school in maintaining this ethos throughout the difficult period that has just passed. We feel the school managed the recent COVID 19 outbreak as effectively as it possibly could and continued to provide an excellent setting for local children to learn in.

The Governing Body continues to be provided with regular 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 additional resourcing and financial issues for the school to manage. Governors feel that the long-term plans for care of these pupils is being managed to a very high standard by the school with extra support for SEN pupils often being provided before a full assessment has been completed. It should be noted here that the recent review of Local Authority provision in Tameside is no reflection of provision in school where a high standard of care has been maintained despite the issues that have been reported at the Local Authority scale.

The finance committee have reviewed financial accounts and budget modelling over coming years which shows that if pupil numbers continue to increase as expected, this should meet the financial requirements for future expenditure. The catch up funding money has been allocated and the school have invested wisely after quickly identifying how best to support students with extra tuition. This approach had the full support of the governing body.

The Governing Body continues to ensure that Governor training is undertaken and all Governors are up to date with the statutory training needs as identified by the Competency Framework. The Framework will guide future Governor training requirements. Recent new members of the governing board have been proactive in completing training sessions to ensure they can fulfil their role to the best of their ability.

The normal quantitative monitoring of pupil performance and progress continues to be complex due to the disruption in teaching caused by the pandemic. However, the Governing Body continues to discuss pupil learning and the school's curriculum on a regular basis and are satisfied that the teaching staff are working agilely to identify areas of concern and how best to

tackle these in each year group. Similarly, changes required in line national guidance regarding the curriculum have also been discussed and questioned by Governors and we are satisfied with the way the school is approaching these alterations. Pupil progress is regularly discussed and the Governors are pleased that progress and attainment remain strong and that the school leaders are vigilant in understanding the complexities of the available quantitative and qualitative knowledge and how to apply this understanding to maintaining the standard of learning in all subject areas across the school.

Governors continue to work with school leaders in monitoring progress against goals and targets within the current School Improvement Plan. Despite the disruption of recent years, Governors are pleased with how this improvement is being approached alongside continuing to catch up the inevitable deficit in learning that has resulted from learning during a global pandemic.

Pupil Premium monies have been used to fund intervention teaching and the provision of Support Staff through school.

Sports premium continues to fund working with a coach from Active Tameside who operates across all schools in the Mossley. Funding is also used to improve and replace equipment and resources used for PE and have recently been used to update the playground markings to enable greater play and informal sports during break times. It is clear, at drop off and pick up times, how this has benefitted the children in terms of play and activities opportunities. It also improves the overall presentation of the school.

We continue to be pleased with local perceptions of the school in Mossley. This is reflected by the fact that many parents and carers continue to select Livingstone as the preferred option for their child.

LIVINGSTONE'S GOVERNING BODY

The Governing Body has seen no changes since the last report. The Governing team continue to work hard and commit their time and effort to the school. I'd like to thank all members of the Governing Body for their time and their hard work.

POLICY APPROVAL

We have approved and updated a number of policies this year which include the Statement of Internal Control, Children Missing in Education Policy, Charging and Remissions Policy and the Budget Plan. The school continues to work 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 would like to thank all pupils and parents or carers for your support, input and understanding as we work with the school to ensure that all young learners are provided with a safe environment and an excellent education which enable growth in every way.

We would like to once again extend thanks and admiration to the school staff for working with such enthusiasm and tenacity; managing to provide a warm and productive environment within which children can learn whilst taking personal risks by continuing to provide an excellent and

diverse education despite a significant COVID 19 outbreak in school. We hope that you have felt supported and valued by the Governors and wider school community. A number of staff went to significant efforts to work beyond their usual required roles to ensure that pupils could continue to learn and we would like to recognise these contributions.

We would also like to recognise and express gratitude to the extraordinary efforts of the Head Teacher and the Senior Leadership Team at the school. They have once again worked swiftly and tirelessly to ensure that risks were minimised and teaching could continue despite the unprecedented situation. We have a small but superb Senior Leadership Team at Livingstone who work beyond measure and with foresight to support staff in providing a high standard of education for all our pupils.

Finally, we would like to express our best wishes to Olly, our Year Two pupil, and his family who are enduring such a difficult situation due to Olly having recently received a bone marrow transplant. We wish you the best in your recovery Olly.

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