



Chair's Report

Summer Term 2022

Please find below the Summer 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 the COVID 19 restrictions have, for now, ended and we have been able to return to a more normal situation in school. This has been a welcome return but we continue to monitor the situation and are aware that this could change in Autumn. The COVID 19 committee has not needed to meet recently but we are prepared to commence regular meetings once again should the need arise. Governing board meetings and committee meetings are still being held virtually for the time being.

GOVERNING BODY

The Governing Body has been operating at capacity. 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 with exceptional meetings when and if required.

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 recent OFSTED inspection;
- 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 and continued to provide an excellent setting for local children to learn in.

The governors are pleased that the school has maintained its status as being judged a good school by OFSTED during the inspection in March. We are delighted that the Inspector could so easily identify some of the major strengths of the school including the caring atmosphere where everybody is valued; the comprehensive approach to safeguarding our pupils; the way teachers work to engage pupils in learning through the curriculum and; the consistent approach to phonics and the strong results this delivers in terms of learning. We would like to note that the Inspector highlighted how well the school approaches the needs of children with special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND) and that these children are given an equality of education that enables them to engage fully in school life and do as well as other pupils in school. This is significant achievement, particularly in light of the recent OFSTED report into SEND provision at the borough level.

The OFSTED framework has changed significantly since the last inspection and the governing board feel satisfied that the points noted by the inspector as requiring attention will be solved as the curriculum develops and as pupils and staff get back to classroom learning and recovery from the disruption caused by the COVID 19 pandemic.

We would like to thank all staff for ensuring our standard has, once again, been upheld, and recognise the hard work that went into preparing for the inspection and undertaking the inspection. Inspections come with an intense pressure for the staff, particularly the Senior Leadership Team and all staff coped well with this.

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. To reiterate, we are delighted that the inspector recognised the very high standard of SEN care that the school provided.

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.

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. The Governing Board have already started to work with the School to consider actions that need to be undertaken to reflect the outcomes of the recent OFSTED inspection and have already partaken in a meeting with the School Improvement Partner in order to consider this. We will continue to ensure we support the school, and staff, in considering actions to be undertaken.

The Governors were all delighted to hear of the new member of the school team and are very pleased to see the immediate positive impacts that Bruno the school dog has had on pupils and staff. He is a welcome and already well loved presence in school.

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.

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 Equalities Scheme and Action Plan and Managing Allegations of Abuse Against Members of Staff. 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 their work during the OFSTED inspection and for their continued work in providing a warm and productive environment within which children can learn whilst taking personal risks by continuing to provide an excellent and diverse education. We hope that you have felt supported and valued by the Governors and wider school community.

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 worked tirelessly to support the staff team through the OFSTED inspection and ensure they felt supported. Once again, the small Senior Leadership Team at Livingstone demonstrated what an excellent team they make and led the staff through the inspection with confidence and care.

Finally, we would like to express our best wishes to Karen Skeffington who is currently unwell. Karen represents the beaming welcome at the school reception that we have all felt the warmth of. The Governing Board wish to send her our very best wishes.

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