



Chair's Report

Autumn Term 2022

Please find below the Autumn 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 normal situation in school. 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.

GOVERNING BODY

The Governing Body has been operating at capacity. The start of the 2022-2023 school year has seen Kay Faulkner resign from her post as Vice-Chair after a significant period as a governor at Livingstone. Kay was a diligent governor who worked tirelessly to support the school and the governing board. She played a vital role in the recent OFSTED inspection and we would like to take this opportunity to extend our warmest wishes and gratitude to Kay for all she has done for the school and for providing an exemplary service to the Governing Board. There has been a very welcome return to the Governing Board of our outstanding former governor Mary Howarth. Mary has vast experience of school governance and we are delighted that she is once again a member of the Livingstone Board of Governors, her experience and insight are already serving the school well.

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 in considering the findings of the 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 to see that the school team have worked together to consider the findings of the OFSTED inspection and have already begun implementing the minor changes to the curriculum and learning that the inspection highlighted.

The first SATS results since the COVID pandemic has seen the school perform well given the disruption in learning that the pandemic presented. The governors are pleased to see a high standard of teaching resulting in solid outcomes. We would like to recognise the efforts of all the staff in ensuring that lost learning has been made up and children have thrived and succeeded despite the significant impact and lost classroom time that the pandemic created. We are pleased to report that staff have already reflected on these results to identify how to improve even further in future years. We are fortunate to have such a dynamic and forward thinking teaching team who work so tirelessly to continually strive in enhancing education for local children.

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) remain 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 continues to be managed to a very high standard by the school.

The finance committee have reviewed financial accounts and budget modelling over coming years. The catch up funding money has been allocated and the school continues to monitor progress and invest wisely to react to where extra support and effort may be required. 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.

Disruption to the quantitative monitoring of pupil performance and progress caused by the pandemic is becoming less apparent and the Governing Body is pleased to see how the school is using this data to understand and monitor progress. The Governing Body continues to inquire about pupil learning and the school's curriculum on a regular basis and we remain satisfied that the teaching staff are working agilely to identify areas of concern and are proactively tackling these in each year group. Pupil progress is regularly discussed by the Governors. We are pleased that progress and attainment remain strong and that the school leaders are working constantly to identify issues and work with the teaching staff to further improve and enhance learning opportunities and the standard of education provided to each pupil.

Governors continue to work with school leaders in monitoring progress against goals and targets within the current School Improvement Plan. Governors are pleased with how this is

improvement is being approached. The Governing Board have discussed with the School the actions that already being implemented to reflect the outcomes of the recent OFSTED inspection and we continue a dialogue with the School Improvement Partner to ensure this effort is continuous and appropriate. We will continue to ensure we support the school, and staff, in rolling out these changes and monitoring their impact and value.

The Governors were all delighted to notice that the school continues to find new ways to support the mental health and wellbeing of students from their earliest school days through their transition to senior school education. We are also pleased to note the way the school is working to help support families in the current economic climate in order to try to reduce the impact on students and their families. This work is not statutory and it reflects the ethos of the school that needs are identified and efforts made to ensure the best for our pupils in any way possible. The Governing Board would like to thank the school for taking such steps and being proactive at this time.

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 Pupil Premium Strategy, the School Improvement Plan and the Attendance Policy. The school continues to work with an external party to ensure that Livingstone is compliant and all policies reflect requirements set out under GDPR.

Karen Skeffington

The Governing Board join the school in being devastated by the death of such a wonderful and well loved member of staff. Karen has provided the school with a certain magic and her diligent and kind ways represented the school as the first point of contact to many pupils, parents and visitors alike. The school has lost something significant with Karen's death. We would like to take this opportunity to recognise this loss and just how much Karen has given to the school. We would like to express our deepest condolences to her family, friends including all of the staff members and parents who knew and loved Karen.

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 thank the staff, including the senior leadership team, for all of their continued hard work and efforts. Their diligent approach to teaching and caring for pupils is exceptional and we recognise how fortunate the school is to have such a remarkable team.

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