



## Chair's Report

Summer Term 2017

Coming towards the end of the summer term please find below our report for Livingstone Primary Governing Board.

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

The school's Governing Board 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.

### **THE YEAR TO DATE**

This has been a very busy and exciting academic year for Livingstone, with the work earlier in the year to develop the new classroom block and the long awaited Ofsted inspection towards the end of the spring term. The Governing Board has also been operating at capacity, with all posts filled, since the start of the Spring Term.

The development of the new block has exceeded expectations and provides the school with another dimension of classroom resources as well as greatly enhancing our outdoor space for Forest School activities. Class 4 and Class 5 pupils have now migrated into the new facilities which has allowed the former Class 5 room to be refurbished to a high standard for the new Year 1 in September. The transition to single form entry will be a phased approach commencing after the summer holidays. Current data indicates that Livingstone will have 24 new starters for Reception in September.

Ofsted inspected Livingstone school on 8th March 2017 and confirmed our status as a GOOD school. This reflects the hard work put in by the head teacher, the leadership team and all staff. The inspector also made comment on the polite, open and confident nature of the pupils who spoke with him. With regard to governance, the Inspectors report noted that *Governors ask perceptive and probing questions and rigorously hold leaders to account* and commented that the Governing Body has the *right blend of skills and experience to support leaders in different branches of their work*. Key outputs and recommendations from the Inspection Report will form the basis of drivers in the 2017-18 School Improvement Plan.

The school leaders and Governing Board continue to monitor 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 Board and where required, support has been put into place. Staff development, including the progression of RQT's has continued throughout the year, through appropriate assessment and review of progress, with all necessary support provided where required.

Regular meetings have been 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.

The first results under assessment without levels were received earlier in the year, with Livingstone performing very well against local and national averages.

Teachers continue to moderate regularly within school and across the Mossley and Carrbrook Schools' Partnership. The programme of reciprocal peer review and inspection is proving to be beneficial and undoubtedly helped to prepare us for our OFSTED inspection.

Pupil Premium monies have been used to fund an intervention teacher post and continue to help with Speech and Language Support and the provision of Support Staff through school and extracurricular activities. In line with the School Improvement Plan, there is a drive by the school to improve the percentage of pupil premium children reaching age related expectation (ARE).

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.

The finance committee has met on a regular basis and have agreed the budget plans for next year, including finances for moving to running the school on a single form entry basis. There is some uncertainty around the level of potential uptake for the government initiative for 30 hours of nursery care, which is currently estimated in account forecasts.

The redeveloped Forest School facilities are currently being planted and will undoubtedly be a significant asset to the school in future years. The current use of the Forest School facilities by the younger children may be expanded to other year groups as part of their learning curriculum.

## **LIVINGSTONE'S GOVERNING BODY**

There have been a number of changes to the Governing Body this academic year, with new governors joining the Board to the point where we are now working at capacity. Cara Taylor (parent governor) will leave the board at the end of the summer term following completion of her 4 years of service. We thank Cara and all members of the Board for their time and their hard work.

## **POLICY APPROVAL**

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

## **FINALLY**

All on the Governing Board remain proud of being associated with such a good, vibrant and friendly school. We are committed to ensuring the success of every student in the school, whatever their strengths and aspirations. 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 for their continued commitment to the success and wellbeing of all the students in the school.