



## Chair's Report

Spring Term 2018

Coming into the spring term please find below our 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.

### **THE YEAR TO DATE**

This continues to be another very busy academic year for Livingstone, with the school managing transition to a single form entry following the development of the new teaching facilities. The Governing Body has generally operated at capacity, with all posts filled, since the start of the academic year.

Aside from the routine responsibilities of the Governing Body there have been a number of areas of focus where we have worked with school leaders in decision making and ensuring appropriate support and strategies are in place:

- Transition of the school to single form entry
- Management of SEN pupil numbers
- Forecast achievements for future KS2 cohorts

The Governing Body was very pleased to see that promotion of the school locally through advertisement and an open evening for prospective new pupils and parents has taken effect. Very positive commentary for Livingstone was circulated on social media following the open evening, just in time for parents making decisions over which school to select for their children. We anticipate that Livingstone will have a full cohort of 30 new pupils joining Reception class in the next academic year. The anticipated attendance for nursery is also up on recent years.

The news on future pupil numbers was essential in decision making for the school leaders in moving to the next phase of transition to a single form entry school. The very positive outlook on pupil numbers means that the Finance Team has confidence in the transition plans and the budget forecasts for the next three years.

Early in this academic year the head teacher raised concerns over the number of Special Educational Needs (SEN) pupils that were being managed by the school. The number of pupils at Livingstone with or applying for an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHP) is significantly higher than national average, which introduces significant resourcing and financial issues for the school to manage. A monthly update on SEN by the head teacher has been included on the

monthly meeting agenda since the issue was raised and the Governing Body have been fully informed on progress in managing this challenging issue. Recent updates indicate some positive news regarding funding agreements with the Local Authority and the long term plans for care for some of the pupils.

The school leaders and Governing Body continue to monitor pupil achievement and progress. The current Year 6 and Year 5 cohorts have been discussed at length over previous meetings and the Governing Body are aware that a fall in achievement from last years results is very likely for these two groups of pupils. We are satisfied that the school have provided all the support possible for these pupils and that the reasons for any reduction in achievement are well understood.

The Governing Body has worked with school leaders in monitoring 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 Body and where required, support has been put into place. Staff development 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.

Teachers continue to moderate regularly within school and across the Mossley and Carrbrook Schools' Partnership (MCSP). The Partnership works together at all levels from leadership to class teachers and subject leads. The school continues to share joint training and support where appropriate.

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. Sports Premium monies have also funded a new 'trim-trail' which is proving to be a huge hit in the playground.

The finance committee has met on a regular basis and have agreed the budget plans for next year, including financial modelling for moving to running the school on a single form entry basis over coming years.

The redeveloped Forest School facilities are proving to be a positive addition to the school facilities. The use of the Forest School has been expanded to other year groups as part of their learning curriculum.

## **LIVINGSTONE'S GOVERNING BODY**

The Governing Body has been relatively stable this academic year, with only one recent change to report and the Body operating at capacity throughout the year. Jason Smith (parent governor) is moving away from the area and left the Body early in 2018. Jason's position has been taken

by Daniel Greenwood. We thank Jason and 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 data protection, Health and Safety, prevent duty and SEND policies.

Training has recently been undertaken by school leaders and members of the Governing Body for the new General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) which will come into force in May 2018. The school is working with the MCSP to ensure that Livingstone is compliant and all policies reflect GDPR requirements.

## **FINALLY**

All on the Governing Body remain committed to ensuring the success of every student in the school, whatever their strengths and aspirations. We are all very proud to be associated with such a vibrant and friendly school.

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 at Livingstone for their continued commitment to the success and wellbeing of all the students in the school.