



## Chair's Report

Summer Term 2018

As we come to the end of another academic year, 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.

### **THE YEAR TO DATE**

This has been a busy academic year for Livingstone, with a successful transition into the new classrooms and the move to single form entry for Reception and Key Stage 1 pupils. Over the course of the year, the Governing Body has generally operated at capacity, with all posts filled, however two governor posts (one co-opted governor and one parent governor) are currently vacant due to recent resignations. The Governing Body are actively seeking to fill these vacancies although it is recognised that this may not be completed until the next academic year. Meetings have been held on a monthly basis throughout the academic year.

There are a number of routine tasks that the Governing Body undertake throughout the academic year. Aside from these responsibilities there have been a few ongoing 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

Following local promotion of the school earlier in the academic year there was some very positive feedback from the community on the ethos and status of the school. This has led to a full allocation of 30 new pupils joining the Reception class in September 2018. The attendance for nursery is also up on recent years and the number of parents opting for the 30 hours of free childcare means that there will be no additional cost to the school in providing this facility. An open evening was run in June for the parents and new pupils starting in September which provided an opportunity for families to meet key staff at the school and to have a look around the classrooms and other learning facilities. The evening was well attended and seemed to be very well received by all.

In addition to the positive news on numbers joining the school in September, there has also been addition to pupil numbers in other years through families and children moving into the local area. The proposed staged transition to single form entry meant that the school had capacity in

younger years however classes were essentially full for year 4 to year 6. A number of new families wishing to attend Livingstone have siblings for which we had space for the younger but not for the older children. Based on the number of enquiries coming in the Head Teacher met with the Chair of Governors and the decision was made to advance the transition into single form entry for the whole school, commencing in the next academic year. The decision was backed up by remodelling of the school finances over the next three years to ensure that the school can afford to transition at this earlier stage. Recruitment has taken place in order to appoint a new classroom teacher in support of this transition.

The Head Teacher continues to update the Governing Body at each of the monthly meetings on the status of children requiring additional provision within the school. Earlier in the year it was noted that the number of pupils at Livingstone with or applying for an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP) is significantly higher than national average. This introduces significant resourcing and financial issues for the school to manage. Following extended discussion with the Local Authority over this issue, additional financial provision was secured by the school for one of the pupils.

The school leaders and Governing Body continue to monitor pupil achievement and progress. The Governing Body have been aware for over a year that the current Year 6 and Year 5 cohorts have struggled with attainment over the years and a fall in Key Stage 2 achievement from previous results is very likely for these two groups of pupils. The results from Year 6 Key Stage 2 SATs are not due until later this year however results from the Writing assessment, which is teacher assessed and moderated by the Local Authority, shows that the Year 6 results have exceeded the expected level. Progress across all subjects has been reviewed and continues to be positive and well above average, with final results for progress expected to be above national averages. The Governing Body are satisfied that the school have provided all the support possible for these pupils and in particular, the teaching and support provided to the children in Class 5 has been exceptional.

The Governing Body has worked with the school Senior Leadership Team and discipline 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.

The introduction of new data protection regulation (GDPR) has meant that the school has had to undertake a full audit of all the data that it holds and processes in its role as an education provider. The new regulation has meant that physical and electronic storage of all data must be controlled and justified. The school has introduced new lockable storage for hardcopy documents, electronic data storage procedures have been reviewed and updated and a number of policies are being updated in line with the regulation. All staff have been briefed on GDPR and the updated school procedures. Under GDPR the school must appoint a Data Protection Officer (DPO) and this role is temporarily filled by Daniel Greenwood (parent governor) who currently works as a DPO for a local health service provider. A permanent DPO provider is currently being sourced by the school.

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 continue to be used for funding an intervention teacher post, 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, through the local schools Partnership. 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 being used to offer reduced cost swimming lessons with Active Tameside for Year 4 pupils in the next academic year.

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.

## **LIVINGSTONE'S GOVERNING BODY**

The Governing Body has been relatively stable this academic year, however two recent resignations mean that the Body now has vacancies for a parent governor and a co-opted governor. The Governing Body would like to thank Sue Longden and Daniel Wake for the time that they committed to working as part of the Governing Body and we wish them both well for the future.

## **POLICY APPROVAL**

We have approved and updated a number of policies this year which include Data Protection, Health and Safety, Prevent Duty, Behaviour and Anti-bullying, Nursery Admissions and SEND policies.

## **FINALLY**

As Chair of Governors I would like to thank all on the Governing Body for the time and commitment that they make to Livingstone Primary School. It is through this commitment that we work to ensure the success of every student in the school, whatever their strengths and aspirations. All of the governors are very proud to be associated with such a vibrant and friendly school.

The Governing Body will always welcome feedback from parents, carers, staff, students and members of the community.

Finally, 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.