



Livingstone Primary School – The Governance Statement

Annual Governance Statement for the Governing Body of Livingstone Primary School November 2017

In accordance with the Government’s requirement for all governing bodies, the 3 core strategic functions of the Livingstone Primary School Governing Body are:

1. **Ensuring a clarity of vision, ethos and strategic direction;**
2. **Holding the Head Teacher to account for the educational performance of our school and its pupils;**
3. **The overseeing of the financial performance of the school and ensuring its money is well spent.**

Governance arrangements

The Governing Body of Livingstone Primary School was re-constituted in 2016 and comprises of 2 staff governors (including the Head Teacher), 4 elected Parent Governors, 4 Co-opted governors and 1 LA governor. There are currently no vacancies to be filled on the Governing Body. Co-opted governors are appointed by the Governing Body and are people who, in the opinion of the governing body, have the skills required to contribute to the effective governance and success of the school. There have been a few changes to personnel within the Governing Body over the last 12 months with a co-opted governor appointed late in 2016, filling the single vacancy that we had at that point. One parent governor’s term of office ended at the end of the 2016/17 academic year and this position was filled in September 2017 through the appointment of a new parent governor. At Livingstone Primary School we only operate with three committees, a Finance Committee, a Pay Committee and the Head Teacher’s Performance Committee. All other aspects of school affairs are discussed and managed by the full Governing Body on a monthly basis.

Attendance record of governors

Governors have a good attendance at meetings, although we are aware that it is not always possible to attend due to unforeseen circumstances, we have never had to cancel a meeting because it was not “quorate” (the number of governors needed to ensure that legal decisions can be made). Full details of governor attendance are posted on the Livingstone School website and are regularly updated.

The work that we have done on our committees and in the governing body

The Governing Body has had another busy year, with the school managing transition of Class 5 and Class 4 into the new school extension and the new academic year seeing Reception and Key Stage 1 moving to single form classes. Livingstone was also inspected by Ofsted at the end of the spring term.

Towards the end of 2016 and early 2017 the work of the Governing Body was focused on preparing for the Ofsted inspection, discussing key data for pupil achievement and progress and ensuring that the school was working to meet the targets set out within the School Improvement Plan.

The Ofsted inspection took place in March 2017, with the findings confirming the status of Livingstone as a GOOD school. This result was viewed by the Governing Body as very positive, reflecting the hard work put in by the head teacher, the senior leadership team and all staff. It was particularly pleasing to note the inspector's comments on the polite, open and confident nature of the pupils who spoke with him. The inspector also found that the Governing Body ask perceptive and probing questions and rigorously hold leaders to account.

Moving forward from the inspection, the Governing Body continued to work with school leaders in monitoring progress against goals and targets within the School Improvement Plan. The 2017/18 School Improvement Plan was reviewed following the Ofsted inspection and incorporates the key outputs and recommendations from the Inspection Report.

Where areas for improvement have been identified these have been 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. The Governing Body has also supported the school in the recruitment process for new staff coming into the school to join the teaching body.

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. Governors regularly discuss the progress and strategies for managing our "vulnerable groups" of children. This includes review and scrutiny of how the Pupil Premium money is spent by the school and how the school offers support to children with special needs.

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| | <p>Mr Baines acts as the Health and Safety Governor and carries out termly checks of the premises with Mr Kenyon-Betts, the school's site manager. It was pleasing to see that points raised on a recent check regarding retaining walls around the school were reported through to Tameside and that remedial work was carried out in a timely manner.</p> <p>Governors are also particularly focused on child protection and safeguarding. All governors are required to attend safeguarding training or undertake online training as part of their role as governor.</p> <p>The Governing Body regularly reviews and approves school policies. This year we have considered a number of key policies, including but not limited to Child Protection and Safeguarding, Pupil Premium, Prevent Duty Policy and policies relating to the use of electronic equipment (iPads, laptops, etc).</p> <p>Minutes of Governing Body and Committee meetings are public documents and you can ask at the school office if you would like to see any of the minutes of our meetings.</p> |
| <p>Future plans for the governors</p> | <p>We are focussed on supporting the school in managing a successful transition to one form entry through financial management and continued positive publicity of the school in the local community.</p> <p>The Governing Body will continue to discuss the requirements of children with special needs and how the school manages these needs. It is noted that the proportion of children within the school requiring bespoke services has increased significantly over the last 12 months.</p> <p>Governors will also continue to support school leaders in any staffing recruitment and other resourcing strategies.</p> |
| <p>How you can contact the governing body</p> | <p>The Governing Body always welcome suggestions, feedback and ideas from parents – please contact the Chair of Governors, Mr Baines, via the school office.</p> <p>You can see the full list of governors; their attendance at meetings; and more information about what we do, on the Governors' page of the school website.</p> |