



Chair's Report

Summer Term 2023

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.

GOVERNING BODY

The Governing Body has been operating at capacity; at the end of this school year Steve Miller, a co-opted governor will be stepping down from his role. I would like to thank Steve for his time and commitment to his governing role and his many excellent contributions to meetings.

Good attendance of those on the Governing Body has been observed at 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:

- Continuing to support the school in amending the curriculum in line with the recommendation from the OFSTED inspection last year;
- Management of SEN pupil numbers; and
- Financial and budgetary management and the potential effect of changes to national school funding formula which are beginning to become very apparent.

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 and warm 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, have implemented the minor changes to the curriculum and learning that the inspection highlighted and are already reviewing how these changes are affecting learning and the curriculum in order to further refine and improve the curriculum and

the way children are taught. It is a reflection on the quality of the school staff that there is a constantly reflective approach to enhancing the curriculum and teaching at the school; always striving to improve the quality of teaching which is always at a high standard anyway.

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 is, as always, managed to a very high standard by the school.

The finance committee have carefully reviewed financial accounts and budget modelling over coming years. The school continues to monitor progress and invest wisely to react to where extra support and effort may be required and to manage the integrity of the building and it's infrastructure. 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 which guides future training requirements. We are currently reviewing the skills that the Board, as a whole, possess in order to identify any weaknesses we could improve upon.

The Governing Body is satisfied with the way the school is using qualitative and quantitative data to understand and monitor progress whilst also having a strong understanding of the needs and capabilities of each pupil; the monitoring approach is not just numbers driven but instead takes account of all pupils and their ongoing 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 and we are keen to question the approaches used by the staff in order to ensure we fulfil our role of interrogating the approach fully. We are pleased that progress and attainment is clearly strong and improving year on year. We are satisfied in the way school leaders are working constantly to identify issues and work with the teaching staff to improve and enhance learning opportunities and the standard of education provided to each pupil from their first day in nursery to their last day in Year 6.

Governors continue to work with school leaders in monitoring progress against goals and targets within the current School Improvement Plan, considering both how the school is seeking to improve year on year and how this looks against the local and national picture in terms of formal assessment results; we are pleased with the way Livingstone Primary School is performing and continues to perform. Governors will continue to ensure we support the school, and staff, in monitoring progress and changes to the curriculum. The Governing Board would like express or thanks to the Senior Leadership Team for all their hard work guiding the school in building forward from the results of last year's OFSTED report, this year has been one of constant 'tuning' of approaches and this will be further enhanced and developed next year. The staff have worked incredibly hard, often in their personal time, to provide their very best to the school, including moderating assessment results during their holidays. The governors would like to thank the school team for their constant hard work and dedication which goes well beyond that which could be expected of them.

Another area where this level of effort exceeds what could be expected is in the way the school has sought to highlight opportunities to support families during a very difficult economic period nationally. The school has worked very hard at communicating support available locally and working with families when they are aware that people are facing difficulties. This role is beyond that which could be expected of the school but highlights the strong focus on supporting children in every way and providing a positive impact on the local community. The Governing Board are very pleased and proud of the school team for taking on such a role.

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 and recommend the school to prospective parents.

LIVINGSTONE'S GOVERNING BODY

As stated earlier, the Governing Board will be seeing changes in September with Steve Miller stepping down from his role. 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; all members of the Board are very dedicated to their role despite having many other roles and responsibilities; all make efforts to support the school beyond the statutory meetings and are constantly seeking ways to use their skills to better their value as Governors.

POLICY APPROVAL

We have approved and updated a number of policies this year which include the Budget, Managing Allegations of Abuse against Staff, the First Aid policy and Complaints policy. We work to review and monitor policies that provide an overarching framework within which the school is managed.

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 and warm environment and an excellent education which enable growth in every way.

We would like to thank the staff, including the senior leadership team, who have once again worked incredibly hard all year to provide our pupils with their very best start in education. The dedication of all the staff at Livingstone never fails to leave the Governing Body astounded by just how much effort they are willing to make and how far they will go beyond their roles to provide the very best for the school.

In my last report I welcomed the two new members of our office team: Laura Donohue and Lauren Hanson. I would like to thank them both for the way they have worked so hard in their roles and become valued members of staff in the short time they have been with us.

Three members of staff are leaving Livingstone at the end of this term and the Governing Board would like to thank them all for their outstanding efforts and wish them the very best in their

futures: Claire Flint, Simon Wilde and Chloe Horrocks. You will all be missed, thank you for all your work.

As always, the Governing Board welcomes any feedback from parents, carers, staff, students and members of the community.