



## Chair's Report

Autumn Term 2023

Please find below the Autumn 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 Michelle Holden will be ending her term as a governor. I would like to thank Michelle for her time and commitment to the role of governor and her dedication to the board and to attending meetings even when working.

Mr Scott Davey has joined the governing board as a parent governor and we look forward to working with him.

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 monitoring changes to 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 very pleased with how well the school team have worked to monitor and manage pupil attainment and the curriculum in light of the impact of COVID and the changes implemented as a result of the OFSTED inspection recommendations. As is the way at Livingstone the Senior Leadership Team have worked closely with the wider staff team and created a reflexive approach to adjusting the curriculum and ways of working to ensure that pupils receive the very best possible education.

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 diligently reviewed financial accounts and budget modelling looking forwards. The school continues to monitor the budget and invest wisely to react to where extra support and effort may be required and to manage the integrity of the building and infrastructure. This approach had the full support of the governing body. The School Business Manager who has been in post since January 2023 has worked incredibly hard to realign the budget, streamline and achieve the strongest possible financial position for the school. The Board would like to thank them for their efforts and the results they have achieved working with the Head.

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 continuing to review the skills that the Board, as a whole, possess in order to identify any weaknesses we could improve upon.

The Governing Body continues to consider pupil learning and the school's curriculum on a regular basis and we are very pleased with the detailed approach of the teaching team in considering areas of concern and working, in a focused and considered approach working across all years to ensure that all pupils and their needs and abilities are met. Pupil progress is regularly discussed by the Governors and we are keen to question and monitor the approaches used in order to ensure we fulfil our role of interrogating the approach fully, an example if this is the new phonics programme which we have been discussing and monitoring since it was implemented and remain assured that it is working well for pupils beginning their school journey. We are pleased that progress and attainment is clearly strong and improving year on year and that pupil numbers remain high, reflecting the community view of Livingstone as a first choice for local parents.

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 remain pleased with the way Livingstone Primary School is performing and plans to ensure this standard is maintained into the long term. Governors will continue to support the school, and staff, in monitoring progress and changes to the curriculum.

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 and the efforts of the school to support families through the current economic difficulties, a role that is beyond that which is expected of them. Livingstone works incredibly hard to ensure that all pupils receive the support and help that is available to make their life both in and out of school as comfortable as possible and the staff should be commended for this approach where all pupils matter.

## **LIVINGSTONE'S GOVERNING BODY**

The Governing team will now see a shift in structure. I am stepping down as Chair and would like to thank the Governing Body for being such an incredible team. We all have roles outside of being governors and the skills and understanding that the current board has to offer the school is quite remarkable. It has been a privilege to work with the Governing Board and some remarkable individuals. Mr Simon Wilde will now take the role of Chairperson and Mr Dan Greenwood will become the Vice Chairperson. Both offer a wealth of experience and understanding of how the school works and I am delighted to be leaving such skilled people in these roles.

It has been humbling to support such an amazing staff team in the running of the school. Parents and pupils see little of the endeavours that go on 'behind the scenes' but the school team, and particularly the Head and Senior Leadership Team, are remarkably dedicated and diligent, always going way beyond statutory requirements to ensure each pupil, and their family, receive the very best opportunities as they begin their journey in education. I would like to thank them all for making my role and time on the Governing Body so interesting and much easier than it would have been at a less well managed 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 Plan, the Child Protection Policy and the Model Pay Policy. We work to scrutinise 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 continuously work to their very best abilities to provide our pupils with an outstanding start in education. The dedication of all the staff at Livingstone is remarkable and this shows in the happiness and confidence of pupils, thank you all.

We welcomed a new member of staff to the school team: Miss Lorrie Mathews is teaching Year Two, we hope she enjoys her first year of teaching at Livingstone.

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