



Autumn Term 2024

Chair's Report

Please find below the Autumn Term report for Livingstone Primary School 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 full capacity during this term, with a full complement of extremely knowledgeable and hard-working people!

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. Good attendance has made all full Governing Body meetings and committee meetings run smoothly and efficiently.

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:

- Supporting the school in ongoing developments and improvements since the last OFSTED inspection;
- Financial and budgetary management and the ever-increasing need to do more with less; and
- Reviewing and examining policies that make sure the school runs efficiently and effectively.

As a Governing Body we know that Livingstone's continued popularity and high esteem within the Mossley community reflects the strong values and ethos that the school has. The reason Livingstone is an excellent setting for local children to learn in is down to the way everyone – children, parents, staff and leadership – contribute to nurturing and protecting this organisation, and we proud as governors to play our own part.

We are provided with regular updates on 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 higher than national average, which brings additional resourcing and financial issues for the school to manage. Governors feel that the long-term plans for care of these pupils continues to be managed to a very high standard.

The finance committee have reviewed financial accounts and budget modelling over coming years. Balancing the needs of the children with scarce and dwindling funding is done with pupils at the forefront of considerations, and Pupil and Sports Premium funding money that is allocated to the school is considered carefully and equitably. We are confident that progress and investment is as good as it can be, with 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. We recently undertook a skills audit of the governing body which has been a useful exercise in analysing our strengths and areas for work. This will guide future Governor training requirements.

A regular feature of the discussions at governor meetings are the updates on how the school is continually revising and reflecting on the curriculum it provides to Livingstone's children. We provide support as well as challenge to the direction and delivery of this work, and we are pleased to see that the school leadership are not content to sit back and consider their work complete – recent conversations about end-points for learning and identifying areas for improvement in the music curriculum demonstrate this.

The SATS results in July 2024 have seen the school perform well, with scores above the national average in many areas. We are pleased to see these results as a reflection of the high-quality teaching that takes place at Livingstone. We recognise and value the efforts of all staff involved. As we have now come to expect, there are already detailed conversations taking place on how these positive outcomes can be improved on in the future – for example in the school's focus on improving writing across the school.

We continue to work with school leaders in monitoring progress against goals and targets within the School Improvement Plan. Governors are pleased with how this improvement is being, as usual, carefully considered and efficiently implemented. Governors have played a more active role in dialogue with the School Improvement Partner to ensure this effort is continuous and appropriate. We will continue to ensure we support the school, and staff, in rolling out these changes and monitoring their impact and value. Of particular note over the recent period is the successful embedding of a new phonics scheme, and refinements to the maths scheme.

Governors have also taken an active interest in the School Streets Initiative that we can see is having positive effects on the safety of families as they go to and from Livingstone. Governors would like to pass on their thanks to the volunteers that make this possible, and to our neighbours for their continued support.

The school continues to play a vital role in the local community and we continue to be pleased and very proud of pupils' perception of their important role in the place they live. This is demonstrated in a vast range of ways – success in local sporting competitions, involvement in Town Council and local community activities and, not insignificantly, with encouraging data on school choice by parents and carers of nursery and reception-age children.

LIVINGSTONE'S GOVERNING BODY

The Governing Body has seen no changes in personnel since the last report. 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.

POLICY APPROVAL

We have approved and updated a number of policies this year which include the Pupil Premium Strategy, the School Improvement Plan, the Behaviour Policy and the Attendance Policy. The school continues to work with an external party to ensure that Livingstone is compliant and all policies reflect requirements set out under GDPR.

I speak for the entire Governing Body when thanking all pupils, parents and carers for your support, input and understanding as we work together to make sure that all young learners are provided with a safe and welcoming school and an excellent learning environment.

We would like to thank all staff for all their continued hard work and efforts. Their caring approach to teaching and aspirational effect on pupils is outstanding and we recognise how fortunate the school is to have such a remarkable team that are so often willing to go the extra mile.

Simon Wilde
Chair of Governors
November 2024