



Livingstone Road Primary Federation

Together We Can
Learn Laugh Dream Grow

Annual Governance Statement

2022- 2023

This annual governance statement gives a summary of the activities of the Livingstone Road Primary Federation Governing Body and provides an opportunity to look back over the year and see what we have achieved. Both school websites also include comprehensive information about the membership of the governing body, committees and meetings.

Strategic Direction

As a Federation, we have a clear, long-term vision that underpins all our activities and drives the Federation's improvement work across all areas.

So, our focus this year has been on monitoring:

- how the raising of attainment and progress is being supported, given the challenges of the pandemic;
- how our shared values and vision for a united federation are being embedded;
- how our Federation is engaging with our local community.

As in the previous year, the Federation's ethos of unity provided a strong foundation that enabled our school leaders and community to ensure high-quality provision and stability for our children throughout a time of great uncertainty. Our school community showed great resilience and creativity in response to the unpredictable events.

Holding the schools to account

We have continued to see changes within our Governing Body, recruiting new members. These new governors have brought with them specialist skills to enhance those of the existing membership, including skills around data analysis, and teaching and learning. Our usual monitoring visits to school and meetings have been now moved back to in person with our resources meeting staying as virtual. We have maintained our work to ensure our Federation is able to consistently provide an education that is as inspired, energised and vibrant as each child that walks through our door.

Our clear focus on monitoring work to support the raising of attainment and improvement of progress for our children continued, with an adapted schedule of monitoring directly linked to the Federation Improvement Plan. We continue to work collaboratively with our Executive Headteacher and other senior leaders to plan, carry out and report on our monitoring, promoting efficient working and good working relationships.

Governor training has continued both virtually and face-to-face. Governors have attended training provided by the Hamwic Education Trust, as well as attending staff training events and bespoke training for the Governing Body, ensuring that all governors are able to maintain sufficient skills and knowledge to fulfil their role.

The Hamwic Education Trust has continued to be supportive across all areas of school life, and we have seen the excellent performance of our schools in both internal and external audits, reflecting high standards across all areas. Improvements to the school environment, an important aspect of our strategic vision for the federation, have continued, ensuring an environment that continues to stimulate and facilitate learning. The drive to raise standards has seen improvements to some predicted outcomes for children. It has been very reassuring to see how the leadership, expertise and skill of staff across the federation have brought about this sustained improvement to good in both schools in the recent OFSTED inspection.

Financial Wellbeing

As in many other sectors, the pressure on school budgets continues. However, despite this, fluctuating pupil numbers, the schools retain their financial strength. Such relentless challenges necessitate regular monitoring of school finances by the governing body, to ensure continued financial security and assure ourselves that we are also getting best value for money, an area in which the Hamwic Education Trust has been very supportive.

In line with our vision, the governing body has continued to monitor the financial alignment and closer working of the schools, whilst recognising that the schools within our Federation must maintain separate budgets.

Governance

A key focus for the governing body has been succession planning. With new governors in place who have leadership qualities, and desire to learn and take on additional responsibilities, plans have been made to ensure a smooth

transition to a new leadership that can continue the work of our governing body, ensuring appropriate challenge and support with a fresh and renewed approach.

Looking forward to 2023 - 2024

The governing body did undertake a formal annual self-evaluation of Governing Body effectiveness at the end of this year; our Governance Development Plan, which will ensure we continue to improve our overall effectiveness. Where we have recruited new members and have increased access to training again, we will also conduct a skills audit to ensure we have the right skills within our Governing Body and can continue to be effective in our role.

We will continue striving to raise attainment and progress, looking at how the schools build on current strengths and develop identified areas for improvement. Our Governing Body will be monitoring the extent to which our Federation's values and vision continue to drive learning for all children. We will continue our work to ensure our schools are viewed as schools of preference within our local community. We will also review how well our current vision fits with our Federation, looking ahead to what our priorities for the future should be.

As we see a change in leadership, we will also monitor this transition, ensuring that our school development plan is the priority and maintained improvements are key.

We always welcome feedback, ideas and suggestions. If you wish to get in touch or are interested in becoming a member of our governing body, please contact the Chair of Governors, Rhys Hatchard, via the Federation office.