



Livingstone Road Primary Federation

Together We Can
Learn Laugh Dream Grow

Annual Governance Statement

2019 – 2020

This annual governance statement gives a summary of the activities of the Livingstone Road 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 now underpins all our activities and is driving 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;
- how our shared values and vision for a united federation are being embedded;
- how our Federation is engaging with our local community.

The school year saw the start of a new era for our schools and the Federation, and one that reinforced our vision of unity, with a change of uniform and school names. This has proved highly successful although, as with all aspects of life, the school year has since been shaped by the Covid-19 pandemic. However, 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.

Holding the schools to account

We have continued to successfully recruit new members to our governing body, who have brought with them specialist skills to enhance those of the existing membership, including skills around HR, recruitment and safeguarding. Although our recruitment of further governors was slowed by the pandemic, we have utilised our existing skills to enable us to work together 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 governing body continued its clear focus on monitoring work to support the raising of attainment and improvement of progress for our children, with a planned schedule of monitoring directly linked to the Federation Improvement Plan. As the pandemic unfolded, we ensured our monitoring priorities matched the demands of the evolving situation. We continued to work collaboratively with our Executive Headteacher and other senior leaders to plan, carry out and report back on our monitoring, promoting efficient working and good working relationships.

Governors have attended the wide-ranging 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 in order to fulfil their role. Training has continued virtually where face-to-face training has not been possible.

The Hamwic Education Trust has continued to be very supportive across all areas of school life, and we have seen how well our schools have performed in both internal and external audits, reflecting a rise in 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 stimulates and facilitates learning. The drive to raise standards has seen improvements to predicted outcomes for children, although there were no formal assessments due to the pandemic. It has been very reassuring to see how the leadership, expertise and skill of staff across the federation have brought about this sustained improvement.

Financial Wellbeing

As in many other sectors, the pressure on school budgets continues. However, despite this, fluctuating pupil numbers and the uncertainty of pandemic costs, 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

The governing body undertook our own regular, annual self-evaluation of governing body effectiveness that has helped to inform our Governance Development Plan for the year and ensure we are able to improve our overall effectiveness. We also conduct a regular skills audit to ensure we have the right skills within our governing body to be effective and that in turn informs our recruitment and training strategy. A key focus for the governing body is now succession planning.

Looking forward to 2020 - 2021

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 begin work on reviewing how well our current vision fits with our Federation, looking ahead to what our priorities for the future should be.

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, Anna Harris, via the Federation office.