



# Livingstone Road Primary Federation

Together We Can  
Learn Laugh Dream Grow

## **Annual Governance Statement**

**2020 – 2021**

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 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.

School life has continued to be shaped by the unfolding Covid-19 pandemic. 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 successfully recruit new members to our governing body, despite not being able to meet in person. 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 took place virtually, for the most part. Despite this challenge 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 have ensured that our monitoring has also focused on the demands presented by the pandemic, in particular maintaining teaching and learning, health and safety, and the wellbeing of our school community. We continue 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.

Governor training has continued virtually where face-to-face training has not been possible. 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 a 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 predicted outcomes for children, although there were no formal assessments again. 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.

### **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**

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 2021 - 2022**

The governing body did not undertake a formal annual self-evaluation of governing body effectiveness due to the pandemic. However, we will aim to complete our self-evaluation earlier in the academic year to help inform our Governance Development Plan and 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.

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.