



Annual Governance Statement

2016 – 2017

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 make-up of the governing body, committees and meetings.

Strategic Direction

September 2016 saw the start of our second complete academic year as a Federation. We continued our work on developing the strategic direction of the Federation, in order to bring the two schools closer together. The governing body, with a new chair and vice-chair, closely supported by the local authority, reviewed its committee structure and monitoring processes to ensure greater focus on school improvement and accountability.

As part of our drive to raise standards, we decided to consult on becoming part of the Hamwic Education Trust, which both schools joined on 1 June 2017. This was done in the firm belief that academy conversion would serve to further support our Federation aim to improve outcomes for all children, through the sharing of expertise, resources and facilities, as well as a more seamless transition from Infant to Junior School. Academy status would also give our two schools greater financial freedom and the opportunity to develop closer links with other partners.

As a board, the governing body also took steps to ensure greater clarity regarding its vision for the future of the Federation, though this work is not yet complete.

Holding the schools to account

The governing body's revised structure enabled more robust holding to account. This was a challenging year in terms of monitoring performance and outcomes for children, with national curriculum and assessment system changes again making comparison with previous years difficult.

Another challenge in terms of holding to account came with the departure of the Executive Headteacher. The two Heads of School acted up as Headteachers for the remainder of the school year, successfully overseeing an improvement in outcomes compared to the previous year.

Work also began to implement the Federation's Pupil Premium Strategy and this work remains ongoing.

Financial Wellbeing

As in many other sectors, the pressure on school budgets continues. However, despite this and fluctuating pupil numbers, the schools retain their financial strength. Such relentless challenge necessitates 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.

In line with our vision for closer working between the two schools, the governing body has continued to monitor the move to closer financial alignment - for example, shared contracts for resources, which also has the benefit of reducing costs to both schools.

Governance

As well as taking part in their own training, governors have broadened their knowledge and skills through participation in staff training events.

Governors undertook our own annual self-evaluation of governing body effectiveness, which has helped to inform our Governance Development Plan for 2017 - 2018 and ensure we are able to improve our overall effectiveness.

Looking forward to 2017 - 2018

The new school year saw the election of a new chair and vice chair and a review of our monitoring procedures.

The change to academy status for our schools late in the school year did not bring about much noticeable change at first for parents and children. However, there has been an increase in background support for teachers and staff, which we hope will become more apparent in terms of benefits to children and their achievement as the new year progresses.

One very significant change, however, has been the appointment of a new Executive Headteacher with effect from September 2017, who has been

tasked with the job of driving forward our Federation and joint working between the two schools. We expect to also see benefits from this in terms of children's achievement over the coming year.

The governing body plans to finish revising our long term vision for the Federation and began the school year by inviting parents and staff to contribute to this.

We always welcome feedback, ideas and suggestions from parents. If you wish to get in touch, please contact the Chair of Governors, Anna Harris, via either of the school offices.