



# Livingstone Road Primary Federation

Together We Can  
Learn Laugh Dream Grow

## **Annual Governance Statement**

**2018 – 2019**

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.

### **Holding the schools to account**

January 2019 saw the four year anniversary of the creation of our Federation. With governors appointed for a term of four years, this offered an opportunity to re-appoint members of our governing body as well as an opportunity to review membership and ensure we had the necessary skills to continue our 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. We have been successful in bringing in new governors with fresh perspectives and additional skills to complement those of existing governors, enabling us to be more effective in providing challenge and support for our federation leaders.

Our governing body has 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. We continue to work collaboratively with our Executive Headteacher and other senior leaders to plan, carry out and report

back on our monitoring, promoting a more efficient way of working and good working relationships.

Governors have continued to attend the wide-ranging training provided by the Hamwic Education Trust, as well as attending staff training events and bespoke training for the governing body, to ensure that all governors are able to maintain sufficient skills and knowledge in order to fulfil their role.

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. One noticeable area of improvement, aligned to our strategic vision, has been that in the school environment, with a clear focus on providing an environment that stimulates and facilitates learning.

### **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, 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 move to closer financial alignment and closer working in terms of administrative functions, 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, which 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, which in turn informs our recruitment and training strategy.

### **Looking forward to 2019 - 2020**

In line with our longer-term vision, we consulted on a change in name and uniform for both schools. The response of our community was in favour of these changes, so the 2019 – 2020 academic year saw the start of a new era for our schools and the Federation, one that reinforces our vision of unity. We will continue striving to raise attainment and progress, looking at how the

schools build on the current strengths and develop the identified areas for improvement. Our governing body will be monitoring the extent to which our Federation's values and vision now drive learning for all children. Finally, we will also focus on work to ensure our schools are viewed as schools of preference within our local community.

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 either of the school offices.