



Chair's Report

Autumn Term 2025

This report summarises the work of the Governing Board during the Autumn Term 2025 and reflects governors' ongoing commitment to providing effective challenge and support to the school's leadership, ensuring high standards of education, strong safeguarding practice and the wellbeing of pupils and staff.

WHAT DO WE DO AS GOVERNORS

The school's Governing Body provides strategic leadership and accountability in the school, both supporting and challenging the school management team. We are tasked with three core functions:

- Setting the vision, ethos and strategic direction of the school;
- Holding the Head Teacher to account for the school's educational performance; and
- Ensuring financial resources are well spent.

Meetings continue to be held on a twice-termly basis throughout the year and the finance committee meet three times annually with exceptional meetings when and if required.

Governance and Board Effectiveness

The Governing Board has continued to operate effectively this term, with good attendance at meetings and active engagement in both full governing board and committee business. Governance stability has been strengthened through the renewal of terms of office for two governors, Emma and Victoria, ensuring continuity of experience and knowledge at a time of wider system uncertainty.

All governors are up to date with required safeguarding training, and the Chair has completed Safer Recruitment training this term. Governors remain committed to ongoing professional development to ensure they fulfil their statutory responsibilities effectively.

Safeguarding and Pupil Welfare

Safeguarding continues to be a core priority for the Governing Board. Governors received and scrutinised the safeguarding update, including changes arising from Keeping Children Safe in Education 2025, and confirmed that all governors have read and signed the document as required.

Governors reviewed anonymised safeguarding data and were assured that pupils and families continue to receive timely and appropriate support. We recognise the strong support provided by the school for pupils with additional needs, noting the professionalism

and persistence of staff in securing the right help for children in a challenging external context. Governors will continue to monitor this area carefully, including workload implications for staff.

Health and Safety

Governors received the termly Health and Safety update and noted that there were no incidents to report during the Autumn term. Health and safety arrangements continue to be subject to routine monitoring, and governors are satisfied that appropriate systems and checks remain in place.

Staffing and Workforce

Staffing matters were discussed during the term, with particular focus on pressures within the school office arising from staffing shortages. Governors expressed their thanks to staff for their dedication, flexibility and continued commitment to providing an efficient, welcoming and professional service to pupils, families and visitors despite increased workload.

Governors also noted positively the impact of the new Site Manager, who is making a strong and valued contribution to the day-to-day running of the school.

Quality of Education, Data and Outcomes

During this term we have reviewed the School Self-Evaluation (SEF) and associated performance information, including outcomes from the 2024–25 academic year. Particular attention was given to the excellent 2025 Key Stage 2 SATs results, which governors recognised as a significant achievement and a reflection of sustained high-quality teaching, leadership and support for pupils.

Attendance data, as set out in the SEF, was also discussed and noted to be positive. Governors welcomed the school's continued focus on attendance and the impact this is having on pupil engagement and outcomes.

Governors approved and scrutinised statutory reports including the Pupil Premium Impact Report, Sports Premium Spending Report and attendance review, ensuring that funding is used effectively to support pupils' learning and wellbeing.

SEND

Governors received an update on SEND provision, including current EHCP numbers and plans to submit further applications. While no significant concerns were raised, governors acknowledged the ongoing workload pressures associated with SEND and agreed to continue monitoring capacity and support arrangements closely.

Academy Conversion Update

Governors discussed the ongoing position regarding academy conversion. Progress towards joining Stamford Park Trust has been delayed due to issues outside the school's control, including Trust and Department for Education timelines. While this has been frustrating

given the time and effort already invested, governors and staff are working together to ensure these delays have no negative impact on the day-to-day running of the school or on pupils' education.

The Governing Board and senior leaders have worked proactively to ensure continuity and stability, including planning around service level agreements and maintaining strong governance oversight. The school remains well placed and resilient, and it is hoped that academy conversion will progress later in 2026.

Governors also noted that governance arrangements remain robust and that the school is well prepared to respond confidently to any future inspection activity during this period.

School Improvement Meetings

Governors are key participants in termly meetings with the School Improvement Partner, attending these meetings with the headteacher and other staff. The last meeting focused on progress against previously identified actions and preparation for the next inspection cycle. The visit drew on discussions with the Headteacher and governors, performance data and school action plans.

The meeting also confirmed that leadership and management remain exceptionally effective, with strong governance supported by clear strategic vision and detailed oversight from the Headteacher.

Agreed actions from the visit include updates on the writing curriculum, SEND provision, Year 6 progress, academy conversion, administrative support capacity and the new assessment system.

Conclusion

Throughout the Autumn Term, the Governing Board has continued to provide effective support and challenge, maintaining a strong focus on safeguarding, educational outcomes, staff wellbeing and strategic leadership. Governors remain confident in the direction of the school and grateful for the dedication and professionalism of staff at all levels, which continues to ensure that pupils at Livingstone Primary School thrive.

Simon Wilde

Chair of Governors |
December 2025