

Annual Report for Governors September 2023



Our on-going commitment as the Leigh, Lowton and Golborne Schools Partnership (LLG) is to secure excellent teaching and leadership across the Consortia, with a relentless drive for a first class education and improved outcomes for the pupils in all of our schools.

This report is intended to give an overview of the work of the Partnership.

The LLG Partnership brings together a family of 25 primaries including maintained schools, faith schools and academies, and continues to create exciting opportunities to further raise aspirations, progress, and achievement for all pupils. The Partnership is founded on the strong principals of collaboration, mutual support, rigour, challenge, trust, professional dialogue and debate.

Head Teachers in the Partnership continue to meet termly as a whole group with regular board meetings to steer the group's development, vision and direction. Our commitment to school-to-school support, both academic and pastoral, is stronger than ever in the current difficult education climate as schools grapple to overcome the legacy of the COVID-19 lockdowns and the impact on our young people.

All LLG schools have received challenge visits from one of the two school improvement consultants, Barbara Dutton and James Marsh, contracted to the Partnership. Both consultants have substantial school improvement experience in an advisory and inspection capacity across a number of authorities and have been an asset to the group. Both are serving Ofsted inspectors.

Sadly Barbara has decided to reduce her school improvement work and as a result James Marsh will be joined by Gill Burrow from September 2023. Gill is a serving Ofsted inspector having been a very successful Head Teacher within Wigan and like James, works across the country in an advisory capacity. Gill is a very welcome addition to our Consortia.

The foci for the 2022-23 visits was determined through a combination of individual Head Teacher liaison and data analysis. The visits have included work scrutiny, school evaluation and development plan scrutiny, discussions with staff and pupils, work with senior leaders, safeguarding reviews and lesson observations. Lead or partner Head Teachers have accompanied the consultants on many of these visits to further facilitate collaborative working and access to on-going practical support when needed.

Schools have been carefully prioritised so that those due inspection or otherwise vulnerable because of leadership changes, inspection outcomes, and/or a dip in pupil data, have received the most immediate and intensive support.

Head Teachers from the Partnership have continued to provide representation on a number of Wigan local authority groups, being proactive in raising concerns and disseminating information from the LA back to the LLG for discussion, debate and implementation. Wigan LA groups that Heads attend include: Safeguarding Board, Schools Forum, Wigan Educational Partnership and the Primary School Improvement Board.

Cathie Williams, Head Teacher at Leigh St Gabriel's Catholic Primary School, has very successfully chaired the LLG for the last two years. In 2023-24 she will be succeeded by Jeanette Westhead, Head Teacher at Lowton West Primary School. Three smaller, locally grouped clusters continue to meet regularly and share good practice across the Consortia at local levels.

Alison Davies, in liaison with the Chair and LLG Board members, has had, and will continue to have, a pivotal role drafting, driving and co-ordinating the Consortia's development plan.

The Consortia is immensely grateful to the Head Teachers and senior leaders within the group who continue to give their time to devise and lead a range of bespoke training and development programmes and opportunities for newly qualified teachers, recently qualified teachers, teaching assistants, learning mentors and business managers.

LLG is committed to retaining and developing talented staff and providing opportunities for all to gain experience and skills for leadership. To this end, training has been accessed for all teachers and senior leaders in school to further develop their skills in the planning, implementation and assessment of the wider curriculum and its delivery in an attempt to secure the highest quality of education for our pupils.

At the beginning of the year the Academy agenda was very prominent. Head Teachers attended two sessions looking at the pros and cons of being part of a Trust and what to look for when considering joining an academy chain.

Head Teacher and Senior Leaders have had the opportunity to attend termly updates delivered by ECM Educational Consultants on the current educational landscape and Ofsted inspections. In 2023-24 LLG English, Mathematics and Science subject leaders will also attend termly ECM updates particular to their subjects.

The annual Head Teacher Conference provided vital networking opportunities as well as access to a high quality inspirational speaker, Jonathan Lear, whose focus this year was on whole-school curriculum development to bring teaching and learning to life in every classroom within LLG schools.

Each new Head Teacher has been provided with an experienced mentor from within the LLG.

The LLG's sport programme, led by Steve Hardaker, Head Teacher at Lowton St Luke's CE Primary, is a model of good practice. The programme has in 2022-23 provided a vast range of regular and accessible sporting opportunities, events and competitions for all age groups and abilities across our schools. The sports programme will be continuing its great work in 2023-24.

In 2023-24, our plan is to continue with the current consultancy arrangement of support for schools and those aspects established and working well as outlined above, as well as developing new training programmes. These include: training for wider curriculum subject leaders e.g. History and Geography; a focus on SEND and including children with additional needs in a mainstream classroom (an increasingly prominent issue for all schools within the LLG and a major focus during Ofsted inspections); and Ofsted training for Governors.

Ultimately our fundamental purpose and moral responsibility to those families and children in our care is to further promote school improvement and raise standards for all our children and we will strive to achieve this through continued challenge and support across the whole LLG Consortia.

Thank you for your support

Jeanette Westhead (Chair) Alison Davies (Business Manager)

Board Members	Lead Headteachers:	Operational Lead and Business Manager
Jeanette Westhead (Chair) Jill Hankinson Clare Hill Emma Lightfoot Claire Oxenborough Cathie Williams Joanne Woods	Steve Hardaker Wendy Hughes Dawn Hurst Cathie Williams Andy Hunt	Alison Davies