



Impact report 2016

Introduction

Big Life Schools runs **Longsight Community Primary** and **Unity Community Primary**, based in Cheetham Hill, which opened in September 2015.

This year, Longsight provided reception, year 1, 2, 3 and 4 classes for **151** pupils. Unity provided school places for **53** children, in reception, year 1 and 2.

There are **25** members of staff at Longsight, of which **6** live locally. **15** members of staff work at Unity, of which **6** live locally. The schools have **10** volunteers between them.

At Longsight, **1** former volunteer became a full-time member of staff this year. **2** people volunteered at Unity; **1** is now employed at the school, and **1** is continuing in their volunteering role.

This year, both schools worked with UNICEF as part of their Rights Respecting School Award. Both schools achieved the 'Recognition of Achievement' level, while Longsight held a Global Citizenship event, helping to raise **£820** for UNICEF and Water Aid.



Attainment

Longsight

60% of reception age children are achieving a good level of development, based on national standards – a figure just below the regional average for last year.

In reading tests at the end of Key Stage 1, **74%** of children were reaching the expected level for their age. For writing, **68%** achieved this measure, while **72%** achieved the level in maths. In all three areas, we are above the national target of **65%**.

In Longsight's Year 3 and 4 classes, more than **90%** of children are making expected progress, and more than **50%** are making good or better progress.

Unity

When Unity opened its doors in September 2015, just **7%** of its reception pupils were achieving a good level of development. By the end of the year, this figure had risen to **59%**.

Despite children arriving at different times throughout the year, with limited previous schooling, of our **12** Year 1 and 2 pupils, **50%** reached the expected level for their age in maths.

65% of children at Unity achieved the national required standard for phonics, beating their target of **56%**. This is excellent in a school where **16** different languages are spoken and **89%** of children have English as an additional language.



Children at Longsight

Children at Longsight speak **23** different languages. **81%** of children use English as an additional language, while **25%** are at the early stages of learning English. **27%** of pupils have no previous education on interrupted education.

42% of Longsight's pupils take part in at least one after-school based club.

The school council have taken an active role, leading the consultation on the design of the new school play area, leading the UNICEF Rights Respecting project, and choosing a school mascot.

Attendance at Longsight is currently **95.3%** - an increase on 2014/15, and almost in line with the national average for primary schools, which is an achievement given the small number of children in the school.



Children at Unity

16 different languages are spoken at Unity. **89%** of children have English as an additional language, while **51%** are in the early stages of learning English.

67% of children in years 1 and 2 are international new arrivals with no previous experience of school in the UK. **50%** of reception children have not accessed any pre-school provision.

Overall, **64%** of pupils have no previous education or an interrupted education.

Attendance at Unity is currently **94.6%**, with a breakfast club recently launched to help to reduce lateness.



Pupil and parent feedback

This year, **129** children at our schools were asked what they thought about their school

98% liked being at their school

98% found lessons interesting and fun

97% say they have to work hard

95% say their teachers are fair to them

In response to a survey of **55%** of parents at both schools:

99% of Longsight parents say their child is making progress

100% of Longsight parents say they felt able to approach the school easily about worries and concerns

100% of Unity parents say that child was supported well to settle into the school

95% of Unity parents say that they have a good relationship with the class teacher



Family support



We employ a parent support worker at our schools to work with all members of the family offering support at challenging times and helping to ensure that our children have the best start in life.

A pupil came to Longsight as an International New Arrival, having never attended school previously. He has hearing loss as well as other health issues.

On arrival, he was assessed as below the national curriculum level in reading, writing and maths, and his attendance fell below 85% as he was required to attend hospital appointments.

As well as offering specialist support for hearing-impaired pupils, staff provided one-to-one sessions to improve the pupil's learning and social skills.

We looked at wider issues to support the whole family. This included working with the family to address a range of housing needs that were contributing to poor wellbeing.

As a result, the pupil's attendance has improved from 81% to 87% last year. His English is developing well, and he is a much more confident pupil with a wide range of friends.

