



BigLife Schools

Impact report 2015

Introduction

Big Life Schools currently runs **Longsight Community Primary**, which opened its doors in September 2013. We have been commissioned to open a second school, **Unity Community Primary**, in the Cheetham area of Manchester, which will open in September 2015.

This year, Longsight Community Primary provided reception, year 1, 2 and 3 classes for **119** pupils in an area desperately short of school places.

There is a strong collective vision to provide a community school which is truly inclusive and meets the needs of all those who attend.

- Ofsted report June 2015



Longsight Community Primary moved into its purpose built premises in September 2014, celebrated with a time capsule burial and performances by the children.

Staff



There are **20** members of staff at the school, of which **10** live in Longsight itself.

1 governor regularly volunteers as a teaching assistant, **2** students have placements in the school and **1** teaching assistant has secured a place to undertake a teaching qualification.

Teaching is strong. Pupils enjoy learning because of the enthusiasm, energy and teamwork of all adults in the school. Children in the early years progress well because teaching in this area is also strong. Children in the Reception class quickly gain in confidence as learners because they are cared for well. - Ofsted report June 2015

Our Children

There are **17** different languages spoken by our pupils, and **85%** of the children use English as an additional language. **26%** of the children are at the early stages of learning English.

We celebrated this diversity with a range of cultural events, such as **Eid-ul-Fitr** celebration day and our **Christmas Nativity** production, Hey Ewe.

20% of the children in years 2 and 3 were accessing emergency education provision prior to being registered at LCP

80% of pupils take part in at least one after school club – including iPad, maths and sports.

The School Council has been involved in school development throughout the year. This included the new build, the new school play area and their views on school lunches.

They are currently developing our child-friendly version of the Preventing Bullying policy.





Attainment

Early Years Foundation Stage

63% of our reception age children are achieving a good level of development, based on national standards. This is up from **50%** last year, and is above national and Manchester averages for 2014.

Key Stage 1

In reading tests at the end of Key Stage 1 **76%** of our children were reaching Level 2 – the accepted national standard – compared to **44%** last year.

For the same level of writing, **72%** achieved Level 2, rising from **44%** last year.

For mathematics, **86%** achieved Level 2, compared with **64%** last year.

These results are remarkable – especially as **43%** of our pupils have had no previous education or an interrupted education before coming to Longsight.

Attendance has been on an upward trajectory this year – and is currently at

94.7%

Parents

Parents play a huge part in the school's success. From the start, parents helped drive the development of Longsight Community Primary, contributing to the name, design of the building and uniform.

100% of parents say that their children are happy in school.

We continue to encourage parents to play an even greater part in their child's journey through school. This year we have:

- held weekly coffee mornings
- held Parent Support Groups
- organised 4 workshops and briefings to enable parents to support their children's learning and development, including a phonics workshop, parent's guide to reception and healthy eating workshops
- held 2 parents' evenings
- held 4 Inspiring Mornings for parents to share the learning experience with their child.

93%

of parents say their child is making good progress, 92% say the teaching is good, and 92% say they felt able to approach the school easily about worries and concerns.



Case study

My children are 5 and 9 and we moved from Italy in 2014. When we came both children did not speak any English, only Italian and Urdu.

Many of the LCP staff speak a community language which has helped give my children confidence to learn English and they have picked it up very quickly. Every staff member is so helpful and cooperative. After only a few months my little one could speak English and could write his own name and basic sentences, he came home with his work that said, "I love my mum", I was very surprised and happy.

The teachers explain how we can help and give clear instructions on how to encourage our children's development at home. It's only because of the teachers that both children have gained so much confidence in English.

When we moved here I didn't know anybody, I was worried about what I would do and how the children would settle here but every day I can speak to the staff and other parents when we drop off the children and they are all so happy with the school. We've now made so many friends through the school.

I also volunteer here as part of my teaching assistant course and so have experienced the school as a parent and as a staff member and I only have great things to say about it. If you ask the children what they think they always say, 'I love my school'.





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