



BigLife Schools

impact report
April 2013 - March 2014

introduction

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

Longsight Community Primary

This year, Longsight Community Primary provided reception, year 1 and year 2 classes for **85** pupils in an area desperately short of school places.

9 people volunteered at Longsight Community Primary, **3** went on to employment with **2** employed at the school, **1** went to a further placement or into education.

Longsight Community Primary opened and ran from temporary accommodation for its first year. A new, purpose built school, will launch in September 2014.

Situated alongside Longsight Children's Centre, the school enables The Big Life group to provide a range of services to children and families, from birth to secondary school.



our children

92% of our pupils use English as an additional language, **38%** of pupils are Pakistani, and **23%** are Bengali. We celebrated this diversity with a range of cultural events like Eid al-Fitr celebration day and our Christmas Nativity Production Prickly Hay.

17% of our pupils have Special Educational Needs.

Giving children a sense of awe and wonder is a key priority for us: this year, children made friends with pythons, tarantulas and a bearded dragon when the reptile company came to school. They've also been visited by the Bug Man, and each week 'POW' from Artis works with children to improve their learning through art, dance, music and drama.



Children at Longsight Community Primary go bug hunting



attainment

50% of the children in Reception achieved a good level of development and over **50%** made good progress across all areas of learning. **77%** of pupils are expected to reach nationally set age related standards in reading and writing. The national average for all pupils is **79%** for reading and **67%** for writing at the end of Year 1. **80%** of pupils in Year 2 are making good to outstanding progress despite **50%** of pupils having no previous education or interrupted education. Pupil behaviour has been independently professionally assessed as excellent in class, with pupils encouraging, respecting and supporting each other. For a small school, where even one child absent makes a big difference, the cumulative attendance is **94.5%** while the national average is **95.4%**.

Parents

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

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
- 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, healthy eating and 'What Makes a Good Packed Lunch'
- had 2 parents' evenings
- carried out a parents' survey
- elected 2 parent governors.

89% of parents say their child is making good progress, 92% say the teaching is good, and 91% say the school seeks the views of parents and takes account of their suggestions and concerns.

“Our daughter is the oldest of our four children, and currently in year 2. All our other children have some form of physical or learning disability. She has not been to school before, as we tried home schooling first. She was enrolled at LCP in September 2013, and went to the summer school for 2 weeks before that to help her build relationships and get ready for school.

She struggled at first at summer school, and was unwilling to eat or play with other children; she also became very attached to another child and wouldn't share time with others. She became distressed at minor things. But her teacher was very patient and she started to leave happy everyday. Since starting school she has formed a very positive relationship with her teacher, making good progress in reading and writing and outstanding progress in maths. She has gained confidence through her own ability. Her social and emotional development is also outstanding; she has made friends and can cope when things go wrong.

We are very happy with her progress, and despite the fact that her little sister has a place at another school nearer to where we live, we won't be moving our eldest daughter from Longsight Community Primary.”



100% of parents say their child likes school.



BigLife
Schools

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Big Life Schools is part of The Big Life group of social businesses and charities