

DERSINGHAM PRIMARY SCHOOL

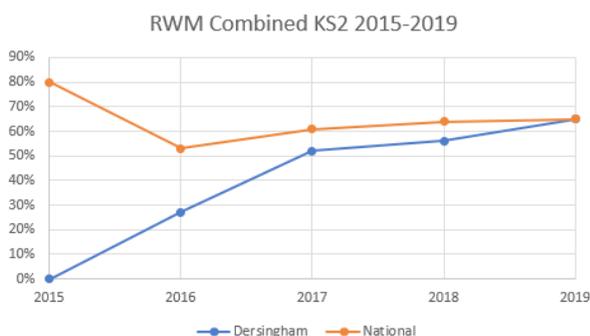


Lando Du Plooy, Headteacher

Connected: Progressive: Determined

These are the words that have guided us to the ‘Good’ inspection (June 2019) which acknowledged the significant underachievement I inherited when I joined Dersingham Primary School as Head teacher in April 2017. They will continue to motivate us as we proceed on our journey to transform the school into an outstanding provider and a beacon in the local community. We have already come a long way; the Interim Education Board, which was in place from April 2017, was disbanded in June 2018 and has been replaced by a highly effective governing body to support and challenge us in equal measure on the next part of our journey. At the same time, we became part of a hard federation with Central Park Primary School with the strategic leadership of an Executive Head teacher. Standards are improving and in 2019 attainment in Key Stage Two was at national.

We are a larger than average primary school in East London with 674 pupils on roll with 97% from minority ethnic groups and well over 80% speaking English as an additional language. The percentage of pupils eligible for Free School Meals is 35% and rising and the percentage of pupils with SEND is higher than average. Connecting with our community is essential if we are to continue to be successful. Our learning mentors, Safeguarding and Attendance Teams have worked hard to collaborate with external agencies to support families with housing and social care issues. Senior leaders hold regular surgeries where parents can come along and raise any concerns that they feel have not been fully resolved through the usual channels and a parent council has been set up. Workshops are held on subjects ranging from how to support with the learning of the times tables at home to using the pharmacist to access medical advice. Parents and carers are welcomed into the school to share the pupils’ achievements in assemblies, a ‘reading café’ encourages parents and carers to join their children in class reading sessions and holiday projects have resulted in parents and carers working at home with their children on practical tasks related to the curriculum.





In order to develop a progressive and forward thinking school I needed to build a team that shared my vision that lifelong learning, fulfilment and success is open to both pupils and staff. The leadership team was restructured and a group of individuals, who had the ability to inspire, lead and support all stakeholders and hold staff to account was formed. A crucial part of the organisation is the teaching and support personnel and they need to be committed and driven colleagues who share my ambitions for the school and can stay and flourish or be newly recruited. Progress and attainment in the core subjects is a school priority and for this reason, experienced and effective staff who can raise standards in their subjects lead them. We have also reviewed our wider curriculum and at the start of 2018/2019 introduced a curriculum based on themes, led by a deep enquiry question which is introduced with a 'Big Bang' to provide a memorable start to the topic at the start of the term and ends with a 'Fantastic Finale' to reflect, share and celebrate the learning. There is an emphasis on enriching the curriculum with opportunities for off-site visits and speakers. Towards the start of this academic year, we

also launched the UNICEF's Rights Respecting School Award that is interwoven throughout our curriculum and is helping to develop outward facing pupils with a strong moral compass.



What next for Dersingham Primary School? We continue to embed what we have introduced so far, review and develop. We continue to look for ways to involve our community in helping us to plug the pupils' gaps in knowledge and improve how they learn. Only the best is good enough for our community and we remain determined to offer an outstanding education in this part of East London.

