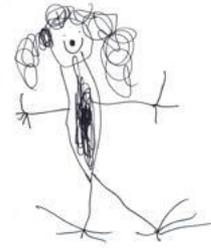




# Rachel Keeling Nursery School



## Annual Report to Parents from Governors

(September 2016 to July 2017)

Dear Parents,

You know what a wonderful year this has been at Rachel Keeling. Despite the difficult financial climate the school has continued to strive for outstanding practice and outcomes for our children with rich and deep learning throughout the year. The new hillock and pond are fantastic additions as I'm sure you'll agree, and all the sustained and collaborative learning over the year, not only through continuing projects such as Bike It and Shoppers of the Week, but from collaborative clay sculptures, through the Ukulele project, to tying knots and den building, has been truly inspiring to witness.



For those of you unsure of what governors do, in accordance with the Government's requirement for all governing bodies, the 3 core strategic functions of the Rachel Keeling Nursery School Governing Body are: to ensure clarity of vision, ethos and strategic direction; to hold the headteacher to account for the educational performance of the school and its pupils; to oversee the financial performance of the school and to make sure its money is well spent.

Governors regularly visit the school as part of committee and full governing body meetings, and in addition when we come to follow up specific areas of the school's development plan. You can find out more about our constitution, individual governors and their attendance and visit records on the governor section of the website. In particular, you may find the governor's statement helpful. This year we have been specifically involved in sourcing funding from the Tower Hill Trust for the Saturday Garden and in mining local resources for updating our fish tank (this sustained learning will take place over the latter few weeks of this term and beyond).

If you are ever in any doubt as to what your children are doing at Rachel Keeling, you know you can look at our monthly newsletters or consult the website which has a weekly blog, wonderful learning galleries and many of the children's videos. The school's continued efforts to record and publicise what we do on the website and social media is another of its great strengths. If you aren't a regular visitor to the website please do go to <http://www.rachelkeeling.towerhamlets.sch.uk/> You can also follow the school on twitter @RachelKeelingN1.



The school is currently creating a new data system with RM Integris - much thanks must go to Becky and Pam for all their efforts on this - which will greatly enhance our ability to monitor our children's progress effectively. During the interim we have been manually recording data and can see substantive progress across all areas for all of our children and we are particularly proud that Rachel Keeling continues to bridge the gap for disadvantaged children. Data for our Leavers in 2016 shows all children achieved similar, excellent levels of progress in all areas of the

curriculum.

As I'm sure you're aware, the Senior Management team (Becky, Maria, Linda and Lize) continues to grow in strength under Becky Dolamore's leadership and during her recent absence, due to her feet operations, Maria Ioannou has been brilliant, showing us all that these past few years have been about strengthening the whole staff team, building outstanding practice throughout the whole workforce so that the nursery continues to progress in difficult circumstances (very important for the future!). Every member of staff at Rachel Keeling Nursery School is valued and has a place in the development of our children. This is a very special thing and is reflected in our great outcomes. The supervision process for staff, a priority for 2016-17, focussing on staff well-being has further built upon this and has helped to develop a well-being school priority focussed around the Leuven Scales of well-being for 2017-18 for children. It also feels important to mention that it has been during this year that the whole nursery developed our Rachel Keeling Values. During a recent visit, our School Improvement Person, Kath Beck, noted, *"By focusing on children's well-being, and giving them the time to explore their own ideas, staff are meeting children's unique needs exceptionally well. Children can spend several days on a project and see the exceptional results. This enables the children to be proud of what they are doing and confident in making their own decisions."*



Since the Outstanding Ofsted inspection of November 2013, the school has worked hard to fulfil their one recommendation to *'Share more widely the school's highly developed skills of meeting the needs of all children and making teaching inspirational so as to contribute further to local and national school improvement.'* The school regularly takes part in the Education Development Trust's Peer Review programme and as part of our



Teaching School Alliance (TELTA), we review other schools in the local area and have them review us. In addition we have visits from educational settings locally and across Europe. The school is also committed to working in partnership with parents, sharing the school's skills with its own families through wonderfully diverse workshops from music to literacy and maths. Thank you to all of you who have made it along over the year.

If you have any questions about this report or about what governors do in our school, please don't hesitate to ask me or any of the other governors and staff. More information about the school is available on our website where you can look at more of the children's learning, films, our blog, our self evaluation form and policies in more detail. For the current key priorities of the School Development Plan, please see below.

If your children are about to leave Rachel Keeling, we wish you and your children all the best for the future and urge you to keep in touch.

Thank you to all our parents, carers, Governors and staff for your support in ensuring our children are able to make substantive progress in their respective learning journeys.

I hope you enjoy the Summer Trip to the beach.

Warm regards,

Rebekah Lattin-Rawstrone (Chair of Governors)

July 2017

**School Development Plan 2017-18**  
**Rachel Keeling Nursery School, where the child comes first. Overview of Key**  
**Priorities April 2017- March 2018**

Key priorities set out in the School Development Plan are linked to the School  
Evaluation Form

Ofsted Framework	Research and Documentation strand is threaded through every area of development
<b>Pupil achievements</b>	<p><b>*Whole School Target* Personal, Social and Emotional Development – Leuven Scales of Wellbeing and Involvement: All children will display high levels of wellbeing and involvement in their learning.</b>  <u>Governor responsible: Rebekah, Lize, Sonia</u></p>
	<p><b>Science:</b> Children will experience a range of scientific concepts and be able to seek answers to questions.  <u>Governor responsible: Clare, Rebekah</u></p>
<b>Teaching, Learning and Assessment</b>	<p><b>Deep learning:</b> We will further develop the role of the adult and environment in scaffolding child initiated, challenging learning. <u>Governor responsible: Peter, Clare</u></p>
	<p><b>Literacy:</b> Children will extend their love of reading and writing with support at home.  <u>Governor responsible: Aminul, Peter</u></p>
<b>Personal Development, Behaviour and Welfare</b>	<p><b>Supervision:</b> To embed our system of staff Supervision and disseminate, sharing practice with other professionals.  <u>Governor responsible: Simon</u></p>
	<p><b>Data Tracking:</b> We will further develop our data systems, ensuring they efficiently give us accurate information demonstrating the attainment and progress of all children. <u>Governor responsible: Sonia, Rebekah</u></p>
<b>Leadership and Management</b>	<p><b>Research &amp; documentation:</b> To continue to publish documentation demonstrating children’s learning. To engage in school-led research relating to all strands of the School Development Plan and share with the wider community.  <u>Governor responsible: Lize</u></p>
	<p><b>Sustainability:</b> To continue to provide high quality learning for all children and their families in a challenging financial future. <u>Governor responsible: Aminul, Simon</u></p>