



**Chiddingly Primary School**  
Muddles Green  
Chiddingly  
Lewes  
East Sussex  
BN8 6HN

**Telephone: 01825 872307**

**Executive Headteacher: Mr James Procter**

**Email: [head@chiddingly.e-sussex.sch.uk](mailto:head@chiddingly.e-sussex.sch.uk)**

**Email: [office@chiddingly.e-sussex.sch.uk](mailto:office@chiddingly.e-sussex.sch.uk)**

**Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> June 2017**

Dear Pioneer Federation Families,

Our Governing Body is very pleased to share the exciting news of our intended partnership working with St Mary CE Primary School, Hartfield, from September 2017. The collaboration will initially be for the period of one year, during which we will be seeking feedback from the whole school community about the development and effectiveness of the partnership. If the year-long collaboration increases the successful outcomes expected for children and staff and is clearly successful, governors would hope to enter a more formal and permanent federation.

Do visit St Mary's website: [www.hartfieldschool.co.uk](http://www.hartfieldschool.co.uk)

Mr Procter, as Executive Headteacher, will be working across the 3 schools from September, spending a third of his time in each school. Miss Lewis, as Deputy Headteacher, will share her time equally between Chiddingly and East Hoathly, fully supported by other senior teachers.

Chiddingly and East Hoathly have enjoyed a very successful Federation over the last 2 years and have also collaborated with schools locally and nationally. The advantages have included: staff retention, due to more opportunities for professional development, increased pupil outcomes and enhanced curriculum experiences. (See a further summary on the back of this letter of the advantages of these and other collaborations).

St Mary's governors share Pioneer's vision and values, and this is why governors have chosen this partnership for our schools. We have already been working with St Mary's throughout this year in a range of school improvement initiatives. The staff have visited and worked with our staff in preparation for their Church school inspection as East Hoathly recently was graded 'Outstanding' in this area. St Mary's has developed a strong pupil wellbeing approach called Thrive which we have been trialling successfully this year, with their support. We will continue to share and develop the strengths of all the schools to increase future school improvement. St Mary's school is like our schools graded by Ofsted Inspection as a 'Good' school.

As you will know, collaboration of small schools is becoming essential to enable us to support one another in school improvement and begin to look at financial savings in order to remain sustainable in coming years.

The Governing Body and Pioneer staff team are very much looking forward to working with St Mary's and feel sure that parents will recognise and welcome the benefits to our children. We intend to keep parents well informed with everything we are planning and record progress in newsletters and on the website. There is much expertise, energy and enthusiasm across the three schools and we are really looking forward to sharing it.

Please contact Mr Procter or email me, if you have any further questions about the year's partnership.

With all good wishes,

**Mandy Watson**

**Chair of Governors, Pioneer Federation**

[mwatson@pioneerfederation.co.uk](mailto:mwatson@pioneerfederation.co.uk)

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Telephone: 01825 872307 Facsimile: 01825 872682 Email: [office@chiddingly.e-sussex.sch.uk](mailto:office@chiddingly.e-sussex.sch.uk)

In Association with East Hoathly school





[AshdownEIP](#) [Ringmer Alliance](#)



**Advantages of being in Federation and other School Partnerships**  
**(Ringmer Alliance, Newick Teaching School, Ashdown Education Improvement Partnership (EIP), Compass Schools)**

- ✓ Wider range of shared CPD and training due to these partnerships
- ✓ Pioneer SLEs and County Moderators, enabling refined skills coming back into the Federation
- ✓ Improvement in outcomes- upwards for schools/nursery
- ✓ Professional development & staff retention- developing more sustained career journey/path
- ✓ Shared planning and resources
- ✓ Shared staff meetings/INSET
- ✓ Subject leadership- Federation subject leaders
- ✓ Shared work moderation and quality calibration
- ✓ Shared expertise and talents - staff working across both sites for specific school improvement initiatives
- ✓ Social aspect for pupils and staff
- ✓ Shared trips and curriculum events
- ✓ Shared community events
- ✓ Financial savings - shared roles, CPD, courses, resources

**Our Vision and Aims for the Partnership**

*Our joint aims and aspirations:*

- Our partnership brings clear benefits for the children of all schools
- Shares and develops staff expertise across all schools
- To try out different and innovative ways of working
- To raise the aspirations of children, staff, parents and governors
- To secure strong strategic leadership
- Maintain and develop individual characters, ethos and distinctiveness of each school but also to use differences to enhance the experience for children from all schools.

*Our Guiding Principles:*

- The schools retain their own identity and character
- Trust and good relationships are not compromised
- That raising achievements and developing high quality teaching and learning remain a key priority
- The quality of education and curriculum provision is enhanced
- The high standards of pupil behaviour are maintained
- The confidence of all stakeholders is retained and secured for the partnership.