



Pioneer Leadership & Governance Structures from September 2025

Dear Parents,

We are writing to give you an update on the latest Leadership and Governor structures across our federation.

There have been 5 **inspections of Pioneer schools** in the last year. Curriculum design and effective collaborative working have been identified as strengths. See school websites for the full reports.

<https://pioneerfederation.co.uk/>

- **East Hoathly Ofsted and SIAMS inspections June 2024-** *'Ambitious, inclusive and well-designed curriculum and with staff & pupils benefiting from the very effective collaborative working across the federation of schools.'* *'The school's curriculum and wider provision is fully inclusive. Disadvantaged and vulnerable pupils are nurtured.'*
- **Chiddingly Ofsted October 2024-** *'Adaptions to the delivery of the curriculum and environment effectively support all learners. It is ambitious. Staff have strong subject knowledge and are confident to teach the curriculum.'*
- **Park Mead Ofsted November 2024-** *'The school and the federation it is part of have worked skilfully together to design an ambitious curriculum. It is clearly sequenced and planned so that new concepts build on prior learning.'*
- **St Mary's Ofsted May 2025-** *'The school provides an engaging and well-sequenced curriculum. The curriculum is crafted to meet the needs and the interests of the pupils well. Teachers collaborate across the schools in the federation. They work together to share curriculum ideas that enhance learning. They review the impact of the curriculum on their pupils. This strengthens the delivery of the curriculum and supports the workload for teachers. Teachers receive training that helps them to develop their practice. This also ensures that they have secure subject knowledge.'*

There will be two new schools going into partnership with Pioneer from September 2025. **Stonegate CE Primary and Framfield CE Primary.**

- The Head of School at **Stonegate** is **Lucy Hazeldine**.
- The Head of School at **Framfield** is **Natalie Riley** (previously Senior Teacher at Park Mead).

Our eight schools will be split into two clusters. The **Ashdown Cluster and Weald Cluster**.

- For 25-26, the **Ashdown Cluster** will be **East Hoathly, Groombridge, Nutley and St Mary's**.
- For 25-26, the **Weald Cluster** will be **Chiddingly, Park Mead, Stonegate and Framfield**.

The eight schools will work together collaboratively and there will be times when the four schools in each cluster will focus on specific initiatives together.

From September 2025, there are now either Headteachers or Heads of School across the federation. Headteachers will have additional strategic and SEND responsibilities. Below are the list of leaders in the six Pioneer schools.

- **Groombridge:** **Caroline Powell** is the Headteacher (until end of December 2025) and Elizabeth Derham from January 2026.
- **St Mary's:** **Naomi Fry** is the Head of School
- **Nutley:** **Helen Denton** is the Head of School
- **Chiddingly:** **Kayleigh Vile** is the Headteacher

- **East Hoathly: Alice Briley** is the Headteacher
- **Park Mead: Heidi West** is the Head of School

James Procter is the **Executive Headteacher** across the Pioneer Federation.

There will be a **Cluster Lead Headteacher** for each cluster of schools. They will support Mr Procter in developing collaboration between the schools and will also work with the leadership within these cluster schools.

- The **Weald Cluster Lead Headteacher** for 25-26 is **Kayleigh Vile**.
- The **Ashdown Cluster Lead Headteacher** for 25-26 is **Alice Briley**.

Sian Leahy is now the **Lead Pioneer SENCO** and is on the Pioneer Leadership Team. Mrs Leahy will be the named SENCO at six of the Pioneer schools. (East Hoathly, Chiddingly, St Mary's, Nutley, Park Mead and Stonegate). In schools with a Headteacher, the Headteacher will be sharing the SENCO tasks and activities.

Ruth Ridley is the **SENCO** for Groombridge and will be also working as the SENCO at Framfield.

Framfield and Stonegate schools will have **separate Governing bodies** for the partnership year 25-26.

There will be a **new Pioneer Governing Body** of 17 members from September 2025. There will be full Governing Body meetings and there will also be cluster committee meetings. The Governors will be split between two cluster committees.

The **Ashdown Cluster Committee** will represent Groombridge, Nutley and St Mary's.

The **Weald Cluster Committee** will represent East Hoathly, Park Mead and Chiddingly. (** East Hoathly is part of the Weald Cluster for Governance 25-26 – as Stonegate and Framfield have separate governance for the partnership year*)

The names and roles of this new Governing Body will be announced in September.

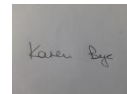
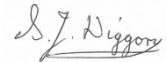
Yours sincerely,



Alan Brundle
Chair of Governors Pioneer Federation



Birgit Smith
Chair of the Governors - Nutley

Karen Bye & Sue Diggory
Co-Chairs - Groombridge St. Thomas