

St Mary's Primary School Contextual Information – '2024-25'

Date Updated: January 2025

Executive Headteacher: Mr James Procter
Head of School: Mrs Jane Robinson
Senior Teachers: Mrs Naomi Fry & Mrs Catrin pike
Chair of Governors: Mr Alan Brundle
URN:: 114553 DfE No: 8453326
Local authority: East Sussex
Type of Federation/Partnerships: Pioneer Federation of 6 schools
Age range of pupils: 4-11

In March 2020, the School achieved a 'Good' Ofsted inspection.

The Pioneer Federation consists of 6 Primary schools and has an outward facing approach to school improvement. The Executive Head now splits his time equally between the 6 schools and the 6 schools work very closely & collaboratively in all aspects of school development- e.g. shared subject leadership, combined budget etc. East Hoathly Primary federated with Chiddingly Primary in November 2015. In September 2017 the federation went to a soft partnership with St Mary's CE Primary in Hartfield and Federated in September 2018. In September 2020, the federation went into a soft partnership with Park Mead Primary and they joined the Federation from September 2021. In September, Groombridge Primary & Nutley CE Primary went into partnership with Pioneer. The Pioneer Federation is in consultation with the Chichester Diocese, DOCET, DBE, ESCC, RSC and DfE regarding become a separate Multi-Academy Trust (MAT) in its own right by January 2025, catering for small school in Sussex. [See SDP 24-25 section 2.4.](#)

The Pioneer Federation has an outward facing approach to school improvement and are active members of local school Alliances. We have a very dedicated talented staff team who have impacted greatly and leaders have blossomed in their leadership roles.

In 2022- 23, there had been a Co-Head of School leadership model in place- previous HoS (pt) and Senior Teacher stepping up.

After a period of staff stability at SMV (2019- 2023), from September 2023 there were 60% teacher changes and a new Head of School and Senior Teacher. These changes were due to maternity leave and staff seeking to gain experience at other Pioneer Schools.

Mrs Jane Robinson was appointed as the full time Head of School at St Mary's from September 2023. She is a qualified SENCo and was previous an Assistant Principal in a large 'outstanding' Primary School in Sussex. Mrs Robinson ensured consistency across the school, embedded initiatives across 2023-24 & built our 'high exception ethos- *be the best you can be*'. From September 2024, we have an ECT in the LKS2 class (previous Pioneer teaching university student) and Mrs Bastin (previous SMV Head of School '19-23') will be returning to the UKS2 class. **Our expectation is that 100% of teaching will be judged as outstanding by March 2025.**

Teaching & Learning Improvement initiatives have impacted on standards in the school & federation. Over time, outcomes are inline or above NA with some exceptional attainment/progress records e.g. **2023 & 2024 KS2 Reading outcomes** were some of the strongest in East Sussex (attainment and progress) and in the top 5% of schools nationally. In 2023-24- all teaching was good+ and 40% of teaching and learning was outstanding. In 2024/25- all teaching is good+ and 70% of teaching and learning is outstanding with the expectation that 100% of teaching will be outstanding by March 2025. In July 2024, all pupil outcomes were at or above NA, apart from Year 1 phonics (33% SEND) and Year 6 GDS Maths [\(see SDP 24/25 2.3\).](#)

As a staff team 2019-2024, we have collaboratively redesigned the Pioneer curriculum to ensure total clarity of intent/purpose, developing a broad/balance/ inclusive and inspiring curriculum for all. Our School Improvement partner (SC- Nov 2023) concluded- that *'The development of the federation curriculum is something that other schools would benefit from seeing.'* East Hoathly had an Ofsted inspection in June 2024 & the 'Pioneer Curriculum' was judged as *'The ambitious curriculum is well-designed and logically sequenced. Pupils build on their prior learning well. As a result, their skills and knowledge become increasingly sophisticated.'* <https://pioneerfederation.co.uk/easthoathly/wp-content/uploads/2024/07/East-Hoathly-CofE-Primary-School-Ofsted-Report-June-2024.pdf>

In March 2023, SMV had Local Authority monitoring visits for 'Health & Safety' [\(see report March 23\)](#). The reports concluded that **'90% healthy and safety outcome, classified as outstanding.'**

Our LA School Improvement Partner (Shaun Collins) concluded in **November 2023/March 2024**, that *'St Mary the Virgin Primary is at present a good school with aspirations to be outstanding in all areas in the future. The school is part of the Ashdown Alliance and EIP. The new head of school has invested time in building relationships. The school has moved forward both culturally and in terms of its ethos and is stronger for this.'*
Overall the school presents as a caring and inclusive setting which is meeting the children's needs. The children are lucky to attend St Mary the Virgin Primary School.'

In **October 2024**, SMV had Local Authority monitoring visits for **'Safeguarding 2024'**. The report concluded that **'Safeguarding is effective'** and **'pupils are safeguarded very well at this school'** & **'pupils were very positive attitudes about school, their confidence that school is a safe place and that adults in the school are always there to help them'**. (THIS NEEDS CONFIRMING IN **Oct24**- but likely to be the above outcome)

We believe that St Mary's Primary School is at present a **'Good School'** with outstanding aspects. **St Mary's Primary School aspires to be an 'outstanding school' by July 2025.**

<p>Is there stability in leadership? In staffing? What is the profile of staffing? See above contextual information 2020-23</p>	<p>SLT: Exec Head, HOS, Senior Teachers x2, Inc Manager 6 teachers (Reception (job share), Year 1-2 (job share), Year 3-4 and Year 5-6) Subject Leaders across the federation</p>																		
<p>How does the school work across the EIP/Alliance/Federation and through NLE and other outreach roles?</p>	<p>Part of the Ashdown Alliance and EIP Subject leaders lead their subject across the Pioneer federation. HOS leads Adaptive Curriculum Senior Teacher x2 lead KS1 PSHCE/Thrive & Art Reception teacher is EY lead Year 6 teacher leads Writing ExHT part of small sch LA committee and undertakes NLE work for LA – supporting other sch in E.Sussex</p>																		
<p>Pupil Information:</p>	<table border="1"> <tr> <td data-bbox="290 794 395 842">Total on roll</td> <td data-bbox="395 794 2247 842">82</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="290 842 395 954">Reception (Maple)</td> <td data-bbox="395 842 2247 954">11</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="290 954 395 1010">Year 1/2 (Cherry)</td> <td data-bbox="395 954 2247 1010">Year 1: 14 Year 2: 10</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="290 1010 395 1066">Year 3/4 (Willow)</td> <td data-bbox="395 1010 2247 1066">Year 3: 13 Year 4: 12</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="290 1066 395 1121">Year 5/6 (Lilac)</td> <td data-bbox="395 1066 2247 1121">Year 5: 14 Year 6: 8</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="290 1121 395 1217">Gender</td> <td data-bbox="395 1121 2247 1217">Boys: 47 (56%) Girls: 36 (44%)</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="290 1217 395 1281">What % of pupils come from the village?</td> <td data-bbox="395 1217 2247 1281"></td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="290 1281 395 1337">Hartfield</td> <td data-bbox="395 1281 2247 1337">51 (62.2%)</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="290 1337 395 1385">Edenbridge</td> <td data-bbox="395 1337 2247 1385">20 (24.2%)</td> </tr> </table>	Total on roll	82	Reception (Maple)	11	Year 1/2 (Cherry)	Year 1: 14 Year 2: 10	Year 3/4 (Willow)	Year 3: 13 Year 4: 12	Year 5/6 (Lilac)	Year 5: 14 Year 6: 8	Gender	Boys: 47 (56%) Girls: 36 (44%)	What % of pupils come from the village?		Hartfield	51 (62.2%)	Edenbridge	20 (24.2%)
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		SMV	National Average																																																																							
	Minority ethnic groups %	3 (3.7%)	NA 33.8%																																																																							
	FSM/PPG	16 (19.75% of the school population)	NA 23%																																																																							
	SEND	SEN - 25: 30% EHCP= 5 (6.17%)	NA- 12.6%																																																																							
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PPG –16 (19.75% of school pop)

			TOTAL	B	G
PPG	13	R	1		
		1	1		1
SEND X 3	27%	2	4	3	1
		3	3	2	
Nat FSM	20.80%	4	0		
	Jan-21	5	2		1
		6	2	2	
			13		


Current Staffing:

Name	Post Held
Mr J Procter	Executive Headteacher
Mrs J Robinson	Head of School, DSL (Federation Adaptive Curriculum lead)
Mrs C Pike & Mrs N Fry	Senior Teachers, DDSL, Year 1&2 Teachers (Federation Art and Thrive leads)
Mrs B Bastin	Year 5 & 6 Teacher (Federation Writing lead)
Ms I Hawkins	Year 3 & 4 Teacher
Mrs R Boldero & Mrs ML Perry	Reception Class Teachers
Mrs M Neville	Teaching Assistant
Miss N Bews	Teaching Assistant
Mrs C Trengove	Teaching Assistant
Mrs A Thurman	INA/SENCo Assistant for the Federation
Mrs K Kryszkiewicz	Teaching Assistant/INA
Mrs K Hone	Teaching Assistant/INA
Mrs I Whyte	Teaching Assistant
Ms K Gladman	Teaching Assistant

	Mrs K Carpenter	Teaching Assistant/INA
	Mrs A Sharp	Forest School Lead
	Mr A Huggett	IT Technician
	Mrs S Leahy	Inclusion Manager
	Mrs J Wicks/Mrs F Wylie	Pioneer Federation Bursars
	Mrs K Powell	Caretaker
	Mr A Elphick & Ms M Ambrose	CEO of 'Active Education Sussex' and PE coach
	Mrs A Funnell	School Secretary (am)
	Mrs K Miller	Admin Assistant (pm)

School day Timetable	8:40-8:50	8:50-9:00	9:00-9:30	9:30-10:15	10:15 10:30	10:30-10:45	11:00 – 12:00	12:00 – 13:00	13.00- 13.15	13:15 – 15:15	15:15
	School gates open	Registration	Spelling, Phonics or reading	<i>Maths or Literacy</i>	Assembly	Playtime	Maths or Literacy	Lunch time	Love Reading time	Afternoon learning	Home time

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Documented evidence of the work of those responsible for governance and their priorities, including any written scheme of delegation for an academy in a MAT	https://pioneerfederation.co.uk/about-the-governors/
	 <p>Scheme of Delegation - Pione</p>

A summary of any school self-evaluation or equivalent	https://pioneerfederation.co.uk/stmarys/ofsted-lead-inspector/
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