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Partnership between Pioneer Federation and Stonegate Primary School

8th May 2025

Dear Pioneer Federation Families,

For some time, governors have been looking to expand our Federation, as we believe that this will give greater security to the future of our schools.

Our Governing Body is very pleased to share the exciting news of our intended partnership working with Stonegate Primary School, from September 2025. Stonegate was investigating several different options, but they confirmed that they were very interested to form a partnership with Pioneer. At a meeting of the Pioneer Governing Board on Monday 31st March 2025, the governors agreed to the creation of a partnership agreement and a formal partnership from September 2025, with the idea of Stonegate joining the Federation from September 2026. At the same time, it was confirmed that either party could break the agreement at any time prior to the formal expansion of the Federation. During the partnership period, we will be seeking feedback from the whole school community about the development and effectiveness of the partnership. If the collaboration is successful, governors would hope to enter a more formal and permanent federation.

Do visit Stonegate website: <https://www.stonegate.e-sussex.sch.uk/esussex/primary/stonegate>

Mr Procter, as Executive Headteacher, will be working across the 7 schools from September, spending a seventh of his time in each school. Mrs Vile, as Cluster Lead Headteacher will also be supporting at Stonegate during the partnership period.

Although the creation of this partnership will have an impact on some of the Senior Leadership Team, it is not anticipated that there will be any immediate impact on the existing staff at Pioneer. Therefore, children are unlikely to notice any change in the immediate future.

Information about how the clusters of schools will operate and other staffing arrangements for next year will be explained in separate letters early next term.

Chiddingly, East Hoathly, St Mary's and Park Mead have enjoyed a successful Federation over many years and have collaborated with schools locally and nationally. After a successful partnership year, we now also look forward to welcoming Nutley Primary and Groombridge St. Thomas Primary into the Federation. The advantages have included staff retention, due to more opportunities for professional development, enhanced curriculum experiences and very good Ofsted and outstanding SIAMS inspections across the schools.

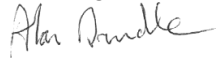
Stonegate Governors share Pioneer's collaborative vision and values, and this is why governors have chosen this partnership for our schools. We will continue to share and develop the strengths of all the schools to increase future school improvement. Stonegate school is like our schools, graded by Ofsted 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 Stonegate 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 seven 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 Stonegate partnership.

With all good wishes,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Alan Brundle', written in a cursive style.

Alan Brundle
Chair of Governors, Pioneer Federation