



## **PARTNERSHIP OF DERBYSHIRE SCHOOLS (PODS)**

Barlow C of E Primary School, Birkhill Infant School, Dronfield Henry Fanshawe School (DHFS), Dronfield Infant School, Dronfield Junior School, Eckington Camms CofE (Aided) Primary School, Gorseybrigg Primary School and Nursery, Holmesdale Infant School, Killamarsh Infant School, Lenthall Infant and Nursery School, Marsh Lane Primary School, Northfield Junior School, Penny Acres Primary School, Renishaw Primary School, St. Andrew's C of E Methodist Primary School, Stonelow Junior School, Unstone St. Mary's Nursery and Infant School, Unstone Junior School, Wigley Primary School, William Levick Primary School

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# **Memorandum of Understanding PODS**

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## **1 Background**

- 1.1 The Partnership of Derbyshire Schools [PODS] have formed this partnership to develop all members of the school communities into happy, thriving and successful citizens who contribute positively to society. Through this we aim to realise our vision, 'Learning together, stronger together' by embodying our values of aspiration, respect and responsibility.
- 1.2 It is an equal partnership for the mutual benefit of all schools involved.
- 1.3 The partnership formed from a fundamental belief in the power of collaboration for the benefit of the communities we serve.

## **2 Partnership aims and objectives**

- 2.1 The overarching aim of this partnership is to develop all members of the school communities into happy, thriving and successful citizens who contribute positively to society.
- 2.2 We aim to do this by:
  - Collaborating between schools to share good practice and improve teaching and learning
  - Communicating a common approach (where appropriate)
  - Championing equality and diversity across our schools and communities, and welcoming all children
  - Striving to keep everyone safe, healthy and resilient
  - Improving transition arrangements
  - Improving outcomes for all groups
  - Providing support and training opportunities for all staff to improve their practice
  - Providing support and training for governors through networking and joint training
  - Supporting each other with best value and maximising resources
  - Fostering a culture of inclusion, openness, honesty and trust between schools
  - Having accountability
  - Creating wide and varied opportunities
  - Engaging in research and development

## **3 Partnership activities**

- 3.1 Activities / support to be delivered by the partnership are:
  - 3.1.1 Headteacher Strategic Forum [to meet at least six times a year]
  - 3.1.2 Strategic Cluster Meetings [three times a year]
  - 3.1.3 Governor Forum [at least three times a year]

- 3.1.4 Early Help Executive Board [EHEB] to meet at least three times a year
- 3.1.5 Additional collaboration / support meetings as and when required
- 3.1.6 Joint CPD / training sessions as and when required
- 3.1.7 Peer to peer evaluation and review procedures such as Headteacher triads
- 3.1.8 Moderation of practice and standards
- 3.1.9 PODS Heads Strategic Forum Teams platform used to share paperwork, resources and communications.
- 3.2 The timeframe for partnership activities will be 3 years, commencing in the academic year 2025/2026.
- 3.3 Activities / support will be reviewed annually to ensure that they are being delivered as agreed, and that they are having the intended impact.

## **4 Monitoring**

- 4.1 All partners commit to monitoring the impact of the collaboration [actions and support], with the aim of ensuring accountability and performance against milestones.
- 4.2 The Headteacher Strategic Forum will co-ordinate the monitoring and report back to senior teams and governing boards as appropriate.

## **5 Impact evaluation**

- 5.1 A commitment to regular impact reports on key topic areas to be decided by the Headteacher Strategic Forum by relevant staff.
- 5.2 At the final Headteacher Strategic Forum of the academic year, the key priorities for the academic year ahead will identify lead staff assigned to each key topic area and the timeframe for impact evaluation reports.

## **6 Designated partnership leads**

- 6.1 PODS will name a Headteacher to lead on specific areas of the partnership.
- 6.2 The designated Headteacher will organise relevant meetings, be responsible for the agenda and follow up actions, report back to the Headteacher Strategic Forum and maintain professional knowledge and awareness.

- 6.3 Each Headteacher Strategic Forum will have set agenda items for feedback on specific areas to include work completed and impact.

## **7 Partnership governance and oversight**

- 7.1 Governors from each school are invited to a PODS Governor Forum. A Headteacher representative from PODS will attend each meeting.
- 7.2 PODS Governor Forum meets at least three times a year.
- 7.3 Headteachers will give feedback to their school Governors after each Headteacher Strategic Forum.

## **8 Financial contributions**

- 8.1 PODS agree to a joint protocol on financial contributions.
- 8.2 Individual agreements will be drawn up between PODS for shared provision and / or services where goods and services are jointly procured.

## **9 Disclaimer**

- 9.1 It should be noted that by signing this document or by participating in PODS, partners are not committing to legally binding obligations. It is intended that the partners remain independent of each other and that their collaboration and use of the term 'partner' does not constitute the creation of a legal entity, nor authorise the entry into a commitment for or on behalf of each other.

**Signed on behalf of each school:**

..... Date .....

*[NAME, POSITION]*

..... Date .....

*[NAME, POSITION]*