



STOKE PRIOR FIRST SCHOOL

Headteacher: Mrs Alison Paisley,
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Monday 1st September 2025

Dear Parent Carers,

Welcome to the Autumn Term at Stoke Prior First School, we hope that you have all enjoyed a wonderful summer break!

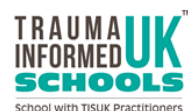
We gave you an update at the end of the Summer Term on our academy journey outlining that the Trust would open on 1st September, with a date to follow of when our school would be joining the Trust. We are delighted to share with you that following work over the holiday, Stoke Prior First School is now part of Aequalis Education Trust and we move into a future together rich with opportunity, collaboration and innovation. Most importantly, it will allow us to further strengthen the quality of education we provide to your children.

We will be part of the Trust with Alvechurch Middle School, Chadsgrove School and Fairfield First School. Meadows First School will be joining us later this term. Chadsgrove College (a college for young people aged 19-25 with SEND) is also a key partner in our Trust. In terms of roles and responsibilities, as Headteacher I will retain my role within our school, as well as taking on lead roles within the Trust on the Academy Board alongside the other Headteachers. The Governing Boards in each school will maintain a key role leading on Education and School Improvement. Deb Rattley will be working with us as Trust Lead, David Snell as Deputy Trust Lead, Jacqueline Pitt as Finance Officer and Sam Griffiths as Chair of Trustees. We are all looking forward to working together!

As a group of Headteachers with over 50 years of Headship and numerous years of senior leadership experience between us, we came together about 2 years ago to share our thoughts on collaborative working and how we might strengthen our schools for the future. Following that first meeting we were all incredibly excited and wholly committed to looking at ways to foster this, whilst maintaining the uniqueness of our schools within one organisation. We all felt that moving to academy status was the vehicle to enable this to happen.

In choosing a name, we deliberated, a lot! We wanted to ensure that we captured the values of each school and had a name that represented what all our organisations stand for and value. 'Aequalis' is the Latin word for 'equal' and whilst we were worried about everyone being able to say it, let alone write it, once we had looked at this word and what it stood for, nothing else seemed to work for us! The word 'equal' sits nicely in *Aequalis* and for us that was important, that equality is at the centre of what we do.

Aequalis Education Trust is driven by a vision to create an ethical, inclusive, and ambitious family of schools that work collaboratively to enhance educational outcomes and opportunities for all. With a national shift towards a fully academised system, Aequalis Education Trust recognises the necessity of growth to maintain autonomy, strengthen local school networks, and provide high-quality, inclusive education. The





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Trust believes that through partnership, expertise-sharing, and school-to-school support, it can safeguard the individuality of its schools while improving standards for all of our children and young people. Aequalis aims to provide a viable alternative to existing Trusts, offering a distinctive approach that integrates mainstream and specialist education to support all learners.

We understand that change can bring questions, and we want to reassure you that we will continue to communicate regularly and openly, ensuring you are fully aware of key developments and what they mean for our children and young people and their families. We are committed as ever to placing your children at the heart of everything we do. Please do not hesitate to contact us should you have any questions or queries. We will also be holding a meeting for families later on in the Autumn Term to introduce Aequalis and answer any questions families may have. We will send a date out for this shortly.

Thank you once again for your ongoing support.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs Alison Paisley
Headteacher

Deb Rattley
Trust Lead

