**A brief history of the Growing Together Federation**

The Growing Together Federation includes Bowerdean Nursery School, Mapledean Nursery School (both in High Wycombe) and Henry Allen Nursery School (in Amersham). Our federation began in September 2017 and is proving a strong basis for collaboration and growth.

This is a brief history of how we came to where we are now:

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| 2002 – 2015 | Bowerdean Nursery School thrived and was graded Outstanding in 4 consecutive Ofsted inspections under the headteacher Tara Wright. |
| Summer 2014 | The governors and headteacher of Bowerdean Nursery School were approached by Bucks County Council with an invitation to open a new nursery serving a different part of High Wycombe and to manage a children’s centre. This was an exciting opportunity which we were pleased to take on. The site of a former special school was completely refurbished to accommodate both the nursery and children’s centre. |
| May 2015 | Mapledean Nursery and Children’s Centre opened. |
| September 2015 | Our first Executive Headteacher, Sue Skinner, joined us. |
| 2015-16 | Bucks County Council refurbished Bowerdean Nursery School site. |
| September 2016 | Following a request from the governors of Henry Allen Nursery School in Amersham, the governors agreed that the head would spend one day per week at Henry Allen as their headteacher. This was a trial relationship, with a view to formalising the arrangement. |
| March 2017 | OFSTED visited Henry Allen and grade it Outstanding. |
| September 2017 | The collaboration with Henry Allen went extremely well so the two governing bodies decided to go ahead and federate, creating one body called the Growing Together Federation. There are twelve governors, including the Head. We have continued to operate two school websites, one for Bowerdean and Mapledean in High Wycombe, and one for Henry Allen in Amersham, as this is easier for the parents. |
| November 2017 | OFSTED visited Bowerdean and Mapledean and graded them Outstanding. |
| January 2020 | Our Executive Headteacher Sue Skinner announced that she would retire in the summer. Then COVID arrived and lockdown hit the country. Sue agreed to stay on until Christmas if necessary. However, with some creative thinking, we came up with a temporary proposal, which is now in place. The interim EHT is Mark Holdsworth, who is head of Our Lady’s primary school in Chesham Bois. He knows Henry Allen well, as his children went there. Sue left on 18th September and Mark took over. He spends every Thursday on our sites, focussed on the nurseries and working with the three deputies. This is an interim measure which has been working well. The role of the deputy for each site is consequently a particularly significant one. |