



2nd September 2020

Dear Parents, Carers and Colleagues,

I am delighted and honoured to have been appointed as the new Headteacher for The Pilgrim PRU. I would like to take this opportunity to introduce myself to you.

I have been a teacher and senior leader in several schools across the South of England for the last 11 years. My career in education began when inspired by working with children and young people placed in Local Authority residential care due to complex behavioural, social and emotional difficulties. Here I realised my passion for working with children with complex needs and embarked on a PGCE. Previous to this I spent a couple of years working in international disaster response as a trained responder. Outside of work I am a keen mountaineer, gardener and proud dog mum to a Rhodesian Ridgeback.

Previous to joining The Pilgrim PRU, for the last 3 years I have been Assistant Headteacher for safeguarding, wellbeing and inclusion in a large mainstream secondary in East London. This was a challenging yet highly rewarding role and allowed me the experience to regularly work with a number of alternative provision and hospital education providers to secure the best outcomes for our young people.

I feel very lucky to have the opportunity to take over the leadership of this school. As the leader of the school, my main job is to make sure your child is safe, happy and achieving well whilst they are at school. The staff and I will be spending the next few weeks making sure children and young people settle back into education and a good learning routine. It has been a challenging few months for many, both children and staff, but we will work together to ensure every child feels welcome, inspired, safe and supported.

I hold a strong belief in the power of education to change children's lives and the right of every child to receive an excellent education. I am dedicated to building opportunities for students to achieve the best progress and academic outcomes, ensuring that they are known well as individuals and that their unique personality, talents and interests are nurtured and developed to the full. At The Pilgrim PRU education is about developing the whole child and providing opportunities for them to flourish within and beyond the classroom, whilst taking into account the barriers they may be faced with due to a physical or mental health need. It is the aim of the whole school team to help each child become a successful learner and well-rounded individual who is ready to make the next steps in their learning journey.

I very much look forward to meeting you in order to get to know you and share my vision and plans for the school in greater detail. This strong partnership between parents, colleagues and the school is so important in enabling children to achieve success.

Yours sincerely,

Ms Leah Miller
Headteacher
Pilgrim PRU