



Our Vision

To inspire a love of learning

St Gilbert's Church of England Primary School

Foundry Road Stamford Lincolnshire PE9 2PP

25th September 2018

Dear Parents/Carers

I am delighted with how all children have settled into the new academic year. They are full of enthusiasm and enjoying their new learning challenges. It has also been wonderful to meet all our new families whether in EYFS or in other year groups.

As a staff we really value the support that you give your children and the school. I thought therefore that it would be very beneficial to give you a picture of what we are intending to achieve this year and also in the long term. I know this will help you in supporting your child even more at home but also provide you with the opportunity to become increasingly engaged with the school and promote its growth.

Each year Governance and Senior Leadership work together to review the **Big Picture** of what the school is aiming to achieve. This happens on three levels.

Our Vision –This is on display in our front entrance and in the school hall and underpins all we do in school. It is what we will achieve when we successfully accomplish the Strategy.

Our Strategy provides the framework for setting priorities. It creates accountability and allows for monitoring progress in realising the school's vision. The focus is significant strategic challenges and although we review it each year, it should remain in place for between 3 - 5 years.

Our Priorities are what we aim to achieve in one academic year; they meet the school's Strategy and Vision.

I have detailed each below:

Our Vision

To inspire a love of learning

Inspirational teaching that enables all our children to flourish as confident and independent learners

A vibrant curriculum that fires each child's imagination to explore and fulfil their own potential

A loving Christian school family that values every child and takes pride in their achievements



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Our Strategy

Emotional and physical wellbeing is at the centre of school life; to build independence, resilience and other life skills in all of our children **(1)**

Rich and varied creative and sporting opportunities enable all children to explore and develop their talents **(2)**

All children consistently make at least good progress in Reading, Writing and Maths **(3)**

To develop the provision of extended learning through partnerships with parents and the wider community **(4)**

As you will see we are already achieving our strategy by being awarded Primary Science Quality Mark, the Caring2Learn Award, Silver in Stamford in Bloom and we are aiming to achieve Artsmark. We have also reviewed our Newsletter highlighting in bold all the values, skills and experiences your children are achieving.

Our priorities for improvement

Senior Leadership began considering the priorities for this academic year last Summer Term. We consider end of year progress for each pupil and we often need to wait for national initiatives to be agreed by the Department for Education or the Government before we can finalise what we need to focus on. We also link it to our OFSTED and Church inspection priorities and ensure they meet the long terms Strategy and School Vision.

Once agreed, I share these with the Board of Governors who take an important role in holding the school to account for the progress we make against these priorities, independent of my reports to them. They work very closely with the Headteacher and the Senior Team. They visit the school, monitor progress, report to the Full Board and also support and challenge in equal measures so that the school continues to move forwards.

I believe it is important that you are aware of our priorities in order that you can see how important your role as parents is, not just in supporting your child but also so that you can feel a full part of the school community and take an active part in supporting us to ensure we achieve them.

Our priorities for this academic year are below and I have also numbered in bold the strategic area they meet:

- In anticipation of new Ofsted expectations from September 2019 we are reviewing our current curriculum and will be sharing further information with you at a later date. **(1,2,3,4)**
- We also have a new Church Inspection Criteria and a new RE syllabus which we are presently implementing. **(1,3)**
- We are continuing to develop our Maths Mastery programme focusing on Fluency and challenge. **(Fluency is the ability to recall the answers to basic mathematical facts automatically and without hesitation). (1,3)**
- We will continue to monitor learning in classrooms and the progress of all pupils. We will focus in part on challenge, presentation, (neat joined, legible and fluent handwriting) and spelling as well as curriculum coverage. Teachers will be spending time analysing learning in books, looking for gaps in understanding which will inform future lessons. We are also introducing Learning Conferencing which we will be talking about with you very soon. The aim is to make sure all pupils are making the progress they should be and if not that we are swiftly acting to support them and liaising with you so that you are aware and can help at home. **(1,3)**
- We are also introducing Character Education. It supports our achievement of our Christian values and the values that underpin our Strategy and Vision – independence, resilience, perseverance, politeness, friendship etc. **(2,4)**
- We will be introducing elements of Forest Schools into EYFS – this programme offers learners regular opportunities to achieve and develop confidence and self-esteem through hands-on learning experiences in a natural environment. **(1,2,3,4)**

- Alongside this we are continuing to develop Science in school, increasing sporting opportunities and are keen to develop our school grounds whilst continuing to make sure our children experience an enhanced curriculum involving visits and visitors. **(1,2,3,4)**

Working with us

I cannot underestimate the importance of your support and involvement in your child's learning. As a staff we really value all the support you give your child.

In terms of learning, please:

- Hear your child read regularly and practise their phonics with them
- Encourage them to learn their times tables – this will support their fluency.
- Make sure they complete their homework on time and when they do, that their spellings and presentation are excellent. Please also help by reminding them to apply these spellings in other work they complete.
- Develop your child's independence and resilience both in being organised for school and in completing homework
- If they are unsure about their learning, please talk with us as soon as possible so that we can work with your child as quickly as possible – this means gaps don't arise. We may also ask you to complete some extra work at home with them.
- Please attend events we organise so you are up to date with learning
- Please also comment on our posts on Facebook – this is shared publicly and we are keen to share how fantastic St. Gilbert's is.

I know you are keen to be involved even more in the life of the school. The **PTA AGM is on Friday 28th September at 9am**. The team work exceptionally hard to raise funds for the school and the more of you that are actively involved, the more additional experiences we can provide for all children. We can also develop the school grounds further and make sure that we continue to move forwards. As you know school budgets are getting increasingly tight and all your fundraising really supports the school.

Come along, bring a friend or two and all your fantastic skills and ideas. I know many of you work but any part you are able to play would be very much valued. I look forward to seeing you there.

I do hope that giving you more of an understanding of what we are endeavouring to achieve will support you in knowing how you can help your child, help you feel increasingly part of the St. Gilbert's School family life and enable you to be further involved in what we are striving for – great academic progress in a nurturing environment full of exciting and challenging experiences.

Kind regards



Miss Dicker