

Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools (SIAMS) Report

Gillamoor Church of England Voluntary Controlled Primary School

Vision

Our vision is rooted theologically in the words Jesus found in Matthew 5:13-16. “You are the salt of the earth...You are the light of the world.”

Our vision and values are lived and breathed by all our school community as we encourage them to celebrate themselves and look at the impact we can have on the world.

Through high-quality education and rich, inspiring experiences, we equip all pupils to become compassionate, responsible global citizens – ready to be the salt of the earth and the light of the world, making a positive difference wherever they go.

The values which help us to achieve our vision are love, courage, forgiveness and service.

Gillamoor Church of England VC Primary School is living up to its foundation as a Church school and is enabling pupils and adults to flourish. It has the following notable strengths.

Notable Strengths

- Inspired by their Christian vision and values, the school is serving its rural community well. There is an aspiration for each person, including those who may need additional support, to flourish together.
- Kind, encouraging relationships are central to daily life in school. This fosters a deep sense of belonging. As a result, pupils and adults feel valued and nurtured within this loving school community.
- Pupils proudly embrace the wide range of leadership and enrichment opportunities on offer. Through courage, love and service, they demonstrate a growing understanding of justice and responsibility towards themselves and others.
- Community partnerships enrich daily life and learning in school. Collaboration with the local church contributes positively to the spiritual flourishing of pupils and adults.
- Pupils are enthusiastic about religious education (RE). They ask questions and express personal ideas and beliefs with confidence.

Development Points

- Ensure leaders and governors have robust systems to monitor and evaluate the impact of the Christian vision. This is to ensure it informs the school's ongoing development as a Church school over time.
- Develop a school-wide understanding of how collective worship opportunities support the daily life of pupils and adults. This is so that opportunities for spiritual flourishing are not missed.
- Extend staff and pupils knowledge and confidence about a range of religions and world views. This is to enable them to understand greater diversity within faiths and beliefs.



Inspection Findings

Vision and Leadership

Gillamoor is a loving and nurturing village school, strongly rooted in its rural community. The Christian vision is at the heart of daily life and shapes interactions among both pupils and adults. Leaders use the vision to foster a deep sense of belonging and collective purpose. They describe how 'being the salt of the earth' enables pupils and adults to add their unique 'flavour.' This is making a difference to their community and beyond. Through committed and consistent leadership, the vision has been more clearly defined. This has enabled school to connect more fully again with its local area. Pupils, staff and parents speak positively about being part of the school community. This is because individuals are loved, cared for and respected. Staff feel valued by leaders, who are attentive to their views and support their professional development. As a result, they are confident in their roles. Governors are deeply committed to the school and recognise its important role within the local community. However, processes for evaluating and measuring the impact of the school's vision are not sufficiently robust. Consequently, their effectiveness in supporting Gillamoor's ongoing development as a Church school over time is reduced.

Vision and Curriculum

Guided by its Christian vision, the school has developed a curriculum that supports academic and emotional growth. From an understanding of their rural context, leaders have ensured that it supports pupils to 'go and be the light of the world.' This includes helping them to recognise both the similarities and differences between their own experiences and those of others. Staff encourage pride in everyday achievements, both great and small. Pupils embrace new opportunities with enthusiasm and relevant trips and activities are carefully chosen to further enhance learning. These include visits to a mosque, links with an urban school and welcoming cultural visitors. A range of extra-curricular opportunities further enrich school life enabling pupils to discover and develop their unique talents. Staff know their pupils well and use this knowledge to thoughtfully adapt provision. As a result, wellbeing is supported and a range of needs are met. Opportunities for spiritual development continue to develop across the school. Pupils are encouraged to reflect on themselves, their relationships with others and their place within the wider world. Consequently, they grow in confidence and show curiosity about the world around them.

Worship and Spirituality

Collective Worship is a valued part of school life. It supports pupils in making sense of the wider world whilst deepening their understanding of the school's vision and values. Throughout the week, there are quiet opportunities for personal reflection and prayers. At other times, singing together fosters a sense of joy, belonging and community. Friday's worship is a highlight where achievements, however small, are shared and celebrated. This enables pupils to understand how each of their God-given talents are unique. However, its impact on spiritual flourishing is not always clearly understood or effectively articulated. Staff do not routinely evaluate or seek feedback. This means opportunities to deepen spiritual reflection and understanding for both pupils and adults can be missed. A strong partnership with the local parish is highly valued. It gives pupils wider opportunities to experience and understand festivals and events within the Christian calendar. This enriches their knowledge and deepens their spiritual awareness. Pupils, staff and parents appreciate these times, enabling pupils to 'grow as people, both in and out of school.'

Vision, Justice and Responsibility

The vision of being 'salt and light' inspires pupils and adults alike. Pupils speak positively about how they serve others and how their actions make a positive difference. They understand that being the light of the world includes acting for the good of their local area and beyond. They embrace opportunities to support and respond to the needs of others. This was demonstrated through self-identified fundraising and initiatives such as planting flowers in the churchyard. As a result, there is a renewed connection between the school and its local community. Justice and fairness are modelled and taught. For example, pupils learn how to resolve disagreements and can appreciate different points of view both in and out of the classroom. A wide range of student leadership opportunities actively support pupils' understanding of justice. Democratically elected into roles such as school and church councillors, they take their responsibilities seriously. This positive attitude enhances learning and fosters a sense of whole school service and collaboration.



Vision and School Culture

The school's vision lies at the heart of the strong and positive relationships that characterise life at Gillamoor. Rooted in the desire to make a difference for each individual, compassion and care shine through. Pupils speak of respect, love and service when describing the way people treat one another. This is lovingly demonstrated during breaks and lunchtimes when older pupils nurture and play alongside younger pupils. The Gillamoor ROCKS approach is well understood. It supports pupils to behave well, be respectful and responsible, whilst following the high expectations that have been set for them. The school's values of courage and forgiveness enable pupils to feel safe to make mistakes and then try again. Wellbeing is a high priority within the school. Where there is a specific need, it is quickly identified and tailored help is given. Staff provide careful, personalised support for vulnerable pupils, including those with special educational needs and/or disabilities. This effectively ensures pupils, regardless of their starting points, belong and achieve together. The well-being of staff is also of high importance and workload is a key consideration. Staff know they are valued and listened to. As a result, this close-knit team is supporting each other to flourish together.

Religious Education

RE is valued by leaders. The aim of being able to 'spark curiosity' is achieved through some well-planned learning opportunities. As a result, the curriculum is establishing strong foundations for pupils to build on. Reflecting the vision, pupils are encouraged to be inquisitive and ask questions even when they are challenging or unfamiliar. They confidently express their own views whilst recognising and respecting that people can and do believe different things. A rich variety of texts, drama and artwork are integrated throughout the curriculum. This broadens pupils' thinking and introduces them to cultures and beliefs beyond those represented in their community. This is enhanced by a well-chosen programme of visits and visitors which brings learning to life. The impact of these approaches is reflected in pupils' evident enjoyment of the subject. Pupils' understanding of the diversity found within religions and worldviews, including Christianity as a global faith, is less developed. However, leaders are rightly continuing to refine the curriculum so that staff and pupils' knowledge and confidence can continue to develop.

Information

Address	Main Street, Gillamoor, York, North Yorkshire YO62 7HX		
Date	25 September 2026	URN	121493
Type of school	Voluntary Controlled	No. of pupils	67
Diocese	York		
Headteacher	Samantha Bond		
Chair of Governors	Stuart Patterson		
Inspector	Judith Skirving		