



William Gilpin CE VA Primary School

'Great oaks from little acorns grow'

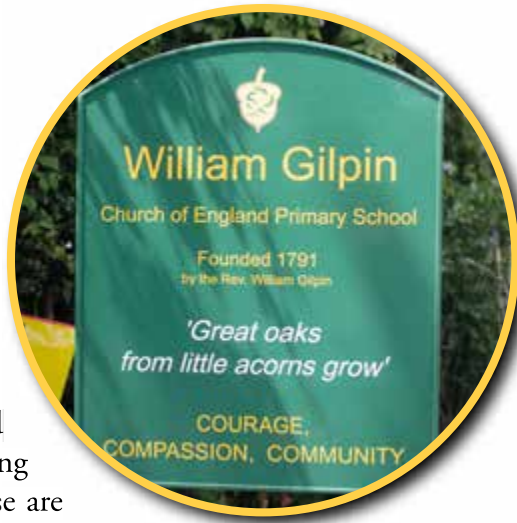




“The school is a breath of fresh air where children’s welfare, learning and development are at the heart of all they do” **Parent**

Welcome

At William Gilpin School, we aim to develop all children so that they achieve their full potential. We do this by recognising and building upon their strengths and by identifying their individual needs and ensuring that these are met.



We believe that children learn best through first-hand experience and our enriching curriculum is designed with this in mind so that pupils are stimulated and motivated to learn. Children are encouraged to take an increasing level of responsibility for their learning, which promotes confidence and independence as they strive for personal excellence.

We have high expectations of our pupils and promote the highest standards of behaviour, based on strong moral values and respect for others in our learning community and beyond.

Our school, founded in 1791 by the Reverend William Gilpin, is steeped in history and we look forward to welcoming you and your child to be a part of its future.



Welcome

Vision

Deep-rooted Christian values and strong, nurturing relationships nourish and enrich the lives of the children at our small church school. We build the courage needed to stand tall and challenge injustice, grow compassion so that our children emerge as kind, respectful and tolerant people, and cultivate a sense of community, branching out to others in our locality and the world beyond.

Aims

At William Gilpin Church of England Primary School, we aim to:

- provide rich, memorable learning experiences which build character in each individual child;
- foster strong, reciprocal relationships which underpin all we do in our small church school, where we value and respect each other's uniqueness;
- provide a wonderful school environment for all children to flourish;
- teach an engaging, rigorous and innovative curriculum which ensures that children leave primary school with the knowledge and skills they need to achieve in the next steps of their educational lives;
- nurture our pupils through a wide range of enrichment activities and Forest School to develop their curiosity, spirituality, positive emotional health and an understanding of their place in the wider world;
- develop our children to become resilient learners with high aspirations.

“William Gilpin is a very nurturing, inclusive school where children are allowed to be children and to be themselves. As a parent I can tell that the teachers really do care about our children and their wellbeing... I like the close, community feel of the school” **Parent**

Christian Values

Worship underpins the values of our school and nourished by it we uphold our Christian ethos in all we do. Our values fit within **Courage**, **Compassion** and **Community** through a love of Christ. We explicitly teach pupils these values through collective worship, classroom dialogue and in R.E / P.S.H.E. lessons, so that they can 'live them out', talk about them and recognise them in themselves and in others.



Courage

Courage is a core value for our church school because we want children to be courageous young people, who stand up for what they believe in, are brave in their learning and can be their authentic selves at all times. As a school community, we will make sure that everyone feels safe and supported enough to show that courage.

Compassion

'Compassion' and 'sympathy' have much in common and both are stronger in meaning than simply 'feeling sorry' for someone. The words have their roots in the idea of 'suffering with' someone, putting yourself in someone else's shoes and experiencing what they experience. It is really difficult not to prioritise your own needs, even as an adult never mind as a five year old. If we learn to put others before ourselves, however, the rewards are immense.



Community

Community as a value is extremely important to us at William Gilpin. We value all members of our school community and enjoy the time we spend together each day. Older children support younger children, we all know and 'get' each other and parents and teachers work in partnership. We know that our community is not just staff, pupils and parents; we also engage with those in our village community, younger pupils who have not yet joined us, plus children in other schools. We all matter at William Gilpin, we are all equal and we make happiness a priority!

SCARF values

We are a 'SCARF' school and implement Coram Life Education's whole-school approach to health and wellbeing. This curriculum supports schools to promote positive behaviour, mental health, wellbeing, resilience and achievement. At William Gilpin Primary School, we recognise the clear link between children's mental and physical wellbeing, and their attainment. Our whole-school approach involves teachers, pupils and parents/carers working together to strongly impact pupils' wellbeing, behaviour and learning. SCARF stands for **Safety, Caring, Achievement, Resilience** and **Friendship**.

Safety is of paramount importance in and around school and we teach children to act and behave safely themselves and towards others. Our behaviour expectations are built around the phrase 'ready, respectful, safe' and we promote the William Gilpin 'Stay Safe Code' - *please don't do that, I don't like it...* - this common language can be used by any pupil to help them feel safe at all times.



Caring pupils and caring staff means that William

Gilpin is a happy, supportive and welcoming place to learn, work and play. There is a real 'family feel' to our school, with our buddy system, in which all new Year R pupils are looked after for the first year by a Year 6 pupil, really embodying this culture. This 'buddy' guides and supports them as they settle into life at their new school.

Achievement of all kinds is recognised and celebrated at William Gilpin. Our weekly Celebration Worships on Friday mornings are a real highlight and parents are very welcome to share these events with us. Headteacher Awards, SCARF certificates, sporting success, the class Attendance Cup and the Housepoint trophy are awarded, and we invite parents and pupils to tell us about achievements outside of school so that these can also be shared. Academic achievement at William Gilpin is strong, with our standards in Early Years and Key Stage 1 especially so and regularly above the national average.



Resilience is such an important trait of learning and at William Gilpin, we teach our pupils that encountering new skills, knowledge and concepts is not always easy. It takes time, and making mistakes is all part of the process. Pupils are taught strategies to help them when they are 'stuck', which ensures they retain a positive attitude and makes their eventual success even more satisfying.



Friendship permeates William Gilpin School, with children establishing friendships both within and beyond their year group cohort. Age is of little significance during social times, with our very youngest pupils often found on the football pitch alongside the oldest!



The Curriculum

At William Gilpin, a well-established and creative curriculum is in place. This broad and balanced curriculum covers all of the statutory requirements, but does so in a way that links curriculum areas together, this gives improved relevance and understanding. Morning learning is generally focused on the 'core' subjects of English and mathematics, whilst afternoon learning features science, history, geography, P.E., art, music, design technology and computing. In Key Stage Two, pupils begin learning French. We complement the curriculum with a wide variety of enrichment opportunities, such as Forest School, specialist P.E. coaching and maths tutoring.



Special Educational Needs

Every child has their own educational requirements and we are determined to meet these wherever possible. Teachers plan lessons where the work is set at appropriate levels for the different ability levels. A team of trained Learning Support Assistants (LSAs) are allocated to classes according to need. Our Special Educational Needs Coordinator (SENCO), in conjunction with specialist external agencies, liaises with teachers to determine appropriate programmes to support SEN children with their learning. Self-esteem is very important and the subtle way in which support is given ensures that this is kept intact and confidence grows.



More Able Children

Where a child appears to have distinct abilities in some or all curriculum areas, we ensure their needs are also catered for. Appropriate work is organised that ensures that they are working at their optimum level.



Religious Education

We follow Hampshire's 'Living Difference' to give Religious Education a clear framework. Our main focus is Christianity, but we also study other religions through the Key Stages.

Our daily act of worship is mainly Christian based and our local vicar leads worship in school every fortnight. We aim to give space for the children to be still and reflective but also to enjoy times of celebration. Parents may withdraw their children from worship and Religious Education on religious grounds, but should discuss this with the Headteacher.

We celebrate significant services at the Parish Church of St John's, Boldre, to which all parents and the wider community are welcome.

**“William Gilpin is a small school with a big heart that has always promoted kindness and tolerance and celebrated individuality”
Parent**



Educational Visits and Activities

The curriculum sometimes involves trips or activities away from the school site. These are carefully planned educational experiences that help children to learn. They are a vital part of achieving success with your child and we hope that you will support these activities by making the voluntary contributions necessary to cover the costs. We endeavour to keep costs as low as possible and at times the school will subsidise visits with the aid of our Parent Teacher Association. We also regularly invite expert visitors into the school to support the learning of particular topics.

Extra Curricular Activities

As well as our After-School Club, at William Gilpin School we offer a range of sporting and recreational activities. Some are run by teachers and some by outside specialists who make a charge for their time. Clubs are run at lunchtimes and after school. The Hampshire Music Service provides weekly lessons for those pupils wanting to learn an instrument, for example the guitar, piano or brass, whilst we regularly engage with art projects through the Arts Council and with local community enterprises, such as Oakhaven's Acorn project and SpudWorks in Sway.



Sporting Activities

The school recognises the tremendous value of sport in the curriculum. Specialist sports coaches teach P.E. to every class and we work with other schools in the New Forest as part of the Priestlands Sports Partnership, which considerably enhances our sports provision for the children.



Breakfast Club & After-School Club

We offer wrap-around care from 7.45am - 6.00pm. Our Breakfast Club runs in the school hall, with a light breakfast provided. Our After School Club runs in the Forest Room, with half-sessions or full sessions offered. A range of activities is provided, including board games, LEGO, craft, cookery and films.

Teaching Organisation

Because the school can admit approximately 17 children each year, we organise our classes into mixed age groups. However, pupils are always taught the knowledge and skills relevant to their specific year group and the benefits of mixing with children of different ages is an excellent life-skill to experience. We have four classes and each class usually covers two school age groups.



Our classes are supported by a team of Learning Support Assistants, in Key Stage 1 there is full time support and in Key Stage 2 there is at least part-time support.

Home Learning

Home learning is part of school life for children of this age and as a school we recognise the benefits for children. We encourage all parents to spend some time with their child, supporting them with their tasks at home.



Children really appreciate adult interest when they have to learn their spellings or tables, they enjoy reading more and when it comes to more challenging tasks you can be an invaluable source of knowledge and advice. Home learning should not dominate evenings at home and should not cause your child anxiety. Pupils in Year 5 and 6 are set more ‘formal’ home learning tasks to complete, usually linked to current learning in English and Maths.

Home School Agreement

The school’s “Home School Agreement” explains the aims and values of the school. It states the responsibilities of the school, parents’ responsibilities and what the school expects of its pupils. Parents are the most significant adults in a child’s life and it is very important that children know that their parents support the school staff in their efforts and agree with the principles described in the agreement. Schools function best when there is real partnership and a trusting relationship between home and school. Signing the “Home School Agreement” shows that you recognise and agree with our values and aims. We ask parents to sign this annually to recognise the ongoing commitment to this partnership.

Behaviour

Good behaviour and a high standard of work are encouraged through a positive and creative atmosphere. The school places great emphasis on children being well behaved, polite and courteous. Consequently, expectations of good behaviour from the children are high and are usually fulfilled.

Norms of good conduct and practice are communicated through collective worship, the SCARF curriculum and by example. Our aim is to foster self discipline and to encourage the children to consider the effect of their behaviour on other people and the consequence of their actions.

Any behaviour which discredits the individual or the school is met with strong disapproval and parents are immediately notified and involved.



Attendance

Good attendance and punctuality is crucial to your child's academic success and at William Gilpin we place a great deal of emphasis on promoting and rewarding this. Whilst publicly celebrating individual attendance is avoided (we appreciate that some children have medical needs and unavoidable appointments), we award the weekly Attendance Cup to the best class, and track whole-school attendance.

In certain circumstances frequent absences, lateness and unauthorised absences have to be reported to the Local Authority.



Parent Partnership

We value the support of parents and believe that only by working together can we ensure that your child achieves their full potential.

Parents are always welcome in school. If you have a problem, then please make an appointment to see your child's class teacher immediately – a problem shared always seems less of an issue.

Sometimes you may wish to discuss the problem with the Headteacher, who is always happy to make appointments to resolve any issue.

We are aware that there may sometimes be changes in circumstances at home i.e. a new baby, a death in the family etc. We realise that these changes may impact on your child during their school day, so we welcome parents sharing such information to enable us to make the day run more smoothly.

Parents are invited to help in school and with extra curricular activities, so that we can share any expertise you may have! This is especially true of Forest School afternoons, where any help is greatly appreciated. Weekly class updates are emailed to parents on Fridays, detailing the learning covered during the week and upcoming learning.



Parent Consultations

We have two parents' evenings a year, one in the Autumn Term and one in the Spring Term. In addition, parents are invited to a 'meet the class teacher' session, where the daily routines of the individual classes are explained. Towards the end of the Summer Term you will receive a detailed report which outlines your child's progress against the curriculum that they are covering.

The School Governors

The Governing Body oversees the work of the school and acts as a critical friend to ensure that the school continues to make good progress. Being a Governor requires commitment and time but the work is kept in perspective, meetings and working parties are conducted in a positive spirit. There are sometimes vacancies and if you would be interested in serving, please do not hesitate to contact the Clerk to the Governors.



Website

Our school website is regularly updated to reflect life at school. It is designed to be useful to visitors, as a resource for children, staff, governors and parents. It contains information about the curriculum, as well as the fortnightly school newsletter.

Security and Accessibility

There is a great emphasis at William Gilpin on creating a safe environment for the children. All parents and visitors should enter the school via the School Office.

The school and classrooms are fully accessible for wheelchair users. Two accessible toilets are available. Disabled visitors are welcome to park their vehicles in the school car park which has a designated space and enter through the car park entrance by arrangement.

Safer Recruitment

William Gilpin CE VA Primary School is committed to safeguarding children and promoting the welfare of children and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment. We will ensure that all our recruitment and selection practices reflect this commitment. All employees and volunteers will be subject to a Disclosure & Barring Service check, along with other relevant employment checks.



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