

## Gonerby Hill Foot Church of England VC Primary School

|                |   |
|----------------|---|
| <b>Address</b> | Gonerby Road, Gonerby Hill Foot, Grantham, NG31 8HQ |
|----------------|---|

### School vision

Learning: Offering an ambitious educational experience, developing a lifelong love of learning for all.  
 Loving: Fostering a spirit of self-worth, compassion and respect across our community.  
 Living: Together, empowering resilient, responsible global citizens.  
 Creating leaders who are inspired to serve, enabling us to live life in all its fullness.  
 ‘Let all that you do be done in love.’ 1 Corinthians 16:14

### School strengths

- Adults and pupils flourish at Gonerby Hill Foot Primary School as a result of its deeply rooted Christian vision. It is aspirational; changing lives and equipping people to be the best they can be.
- Pupils are celebrated as individuals because the school recognises and values everyone. A rich and varied curriculum enables pupils to make connections between their learning and the vision, preparing them well for the lives that lie ahead of them.
- Positive relationships underpin the work of the school which results in a culture of love and concern for all. Consequently, the wellbeing of everyone in the school community is enhanced.
- The school is a beacon of light in the community. It is well supported by the local church and other community partners. Parents value the school’s commitment to working with them to secure the best outcomes for their children and their families.
- Religious Education (RE) is well-led by a passionate subject leader. It has a high profile in the curriculum and, as a result of staff training, is well-planned and taught.

### Areas for development

- Develop pupils’ leadership skills in initiating and leading on social action projects. This is so that they grow in their understanding of the positive impact they can have on the world.
- Embed a shared language and understanding of spirituality in both collective worship and the curriculum. This will enable pupils to understand and articulate their growing spiritual awareness.
- Widen the scope of teaching about Christianity in RE. This is to ensure that pupils understand the diversity of belief and practice around the world.

## Inspection findings

Love and care for everyone shines through the work of Gonerby Hill Foot Primary School. The vision, developed in partnership with staff and parents, underpins every aspect of the school's work as a community built upon Christian values. There is a clear understanding of the importance of the vision in informing all decisions, however challenging. This drives the development and monitoring of provision and impact. Governors offer an effective balance of challenge and support to school leadership which is reflected in a commitment to continuous improvement.

Values, based upon the example of Jesus, including fairness and compassion, provide a means of making the vision a lived reality for everyone. Pupils explain how these values apply to their lives as they learn, love and live together. As a result of this shared understanding, the school provides an aspirational education enabling everyone to be the best they can be. The school's commitment to supporting staff, pupils and their families frequently transforms lives. Families from overseas speak of how the welcome they have received has helped them to settle into the community.

The curriculum, intentionally chosen to support the vision, offers a rich and varied learning experience for all pupils. At every opportunity, they are made aware of how what they are learning links to the school's values. This enables them to understand how it applies to their own lives. The curriculum challenges thinking and develops the skills of communication and reasoning. This empowers pupils to express their thoughts and ideas in a safe and supportive space. Pupils talk about the importance of being able to communicate so that they can understand one another. Many discover new talents and interests through the wider curriculum. This helps to build self-confidence. Opportunities for spiritual development through the curriculum are less developed.

School staff work tirelessly to support vulnerable pupils and their families. Those with special educational needs and/ or disabilities (SEND) benefit from carefully planned learning experiences. Loving intervention and support enable these pupils to access the best possible provision in small groups and dedicated spaces. As a result of the inclusive nature of the school, these pupils flourish as valued members of the school community.

Collective worship is an integral part of the day further strengthening the impact of the vision and values of the school. Candles and reflective words bring a sense of calm in preparation for worship. Staff lovingly support pupils with additional needs. This enables them to be fully included and able to participate in all aspects of worship. Following worship focusing on the parable of the unforgiving servant from the Bible, pupils were encouraged to take the message of forgiveness out 'on to the playground'. The school's approach to worship enables pupils and staff to encounter the Christian message in a variety of ways. Worship is enriched by the different leadership styles of staff members and local church representatives. Equally, pupils and staff benefit from the opportunity to meet as a whole school and in smaller groups throughout the week. Parents feel welcomed into the wider Christian community as they come together with the school to celebrate major festivals in the local church. Members of staff talk openly about the way in which collective worship enables their own spiritual flourishing. Pupils do not always acknowledge their growing spiritual awareness because they do not yet have the language needed to express it.

The Christian vision ensures that emotional health and wellbeing are a priority. Love and genuine concern for one another are evident in the very strong relationships which exist between adults, pupils and families. One pupil said, 'If I feel sad about something at home, there is always someone to give me a minute of their time'. The vision has an impact beyond the school and into the wider community. Parents feel that they can approach staff with any problem, knowing that they will be listened to and helped. The school's consistent approach to behaviour management results in a calm atmosphere where pupils feel safe. They are provided with the skills to manage conflict with love and forgiveness. Adults compassionately support pupils towards reconciliation when relationships break down.

The curriculum is effective in developing pupils understanding of justice and responsibility. Pupils learn how they can be agents of change. Through the curriculum, they are encouraged to consider the example of a range of figures in past and recent times. This inspires them to support charities that are important to them, including the local food bank. Pupils make a difference to the lives of residents of local care homes through concerts and shared craft activities. This intergenerational work benefits everyone involved and enables all to flourish. An understanding of how their actions can benefit society is strengthened through opportunities to learn about issues such as child labour. Pupils in Years 5 and 6 wrote letters to sporting personalities expressing their concern that branded sportswear is often manufactured by children. This helped them to appreciate the importance of their own voice in bringing about change. However, there are few opportunities for pupils to develop their own leadership skills through social action projects.

RE contributes significantly to fulfilling the vision of Gonerby Hill Foot Primary School. It has a high status within the curriculum. Pupils have access to an accurate and relevant curriculum, designed to support their living in culturally diverse communities. The passionate subject leader ensures that staff have the necessary knowledge and skills to deliver high quality teaching. The RE curriculum provides a balance of knowledge and opportunities for pupils to think more deeply. This includes considering the impact of following a religion or worldview on people's lives. One pupil explained how learning about other faiths and worldviews would help him to understand and get along with others in the future. Pupils are proud of their work in RE. Pupils in Years 5 and 6 speak with enthusiasm about writing newspaper reports focusing on the life and work of Jesus. Christianity is brought to life through visits to local churches. However, pupils do not yet have sufficient opportunities to encounter the diverse range of Christian belief and practice across the world.

The inspection findings indicate that Gonerby Hill Foot Church of England Primary School is living up to its foundation as a Church school.

#### Information

|                 |                             |                |         |
|-----------------|-----------------------------|----------------|---------|
| Inspection date | 13 <sup>th</sup> March 2024 | URN            | 120524  |
| VA/VC/Academy   | VC                          | Pupils on roll | 284     |
| Diocese         | Lincoln                     |                |         |
| MAT/Federation  |                             |                |         |
| Headteacher     | Jayne Watson                |                |         |
| Chair           | Michael Buckeridge          |                |         |
| Inspector       | Helen Simms                 | No.            | c.23/24 |