# Galmpton Church of England Primary School Ethos Group

# Terms of Reference

**The main purposes of this committee are:**

* ***to preserve and develop the Christian character and distinctiveness of the school***
* ***to ensure the pastoral care of the children and staff including how the school meets the needs of learners through its distinctive Christian character and teaching***
* ***to promote Community Cohesion including the relationship between the Church and the school***
* ***to review and develop Collective Worship***
* ***to review and develop Religious Education***
* ***to monitor and take forward the SIAMS action plan***

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| ***Agenda 29.9.21 Meeting held in person/online***  ***Present:*** Rev.Stephen Yates, Jane Washington, Trudi Bright, Victoria Yates, Caroline Duckett, Katy Burns | | |
| ***Welcome, prayer and Apologies-*** Shelley Moss | | |
| **Agenda item** | **Actions** | **Next Steps/Impact** |
| ***Minutes from last meeting-actions completed?*** *Spirituality policy has been completed, shared with staff and training completed with Ed Pawson, available to see on website under ‘our church school’. Carried over Action - Shelley Moss – to ask her Church group whether there is a possibility of them coming to Galmpton to offer ‘Open the book’.* | | |
| **SIAMs/Ethos action plan** | ***KB to share annual action plan for Ethos group and to discuss roles and responsibilities around Autumn term actions*** | *Annual plan shared with group. Group members felt this was a comprehensive plan and agreed that the milestones (termly actions) would help pace out the priorities for the Year. A more in depth discussion was held around the church/school links with KB sharing news of a new choir club starting at Galmpton. She hopes this will lead to greater opportunites for families and children singing in church and involve children in services. JW shared the very good work being carried out by the church worship group with Elaine leading the groups planning.* ***Action*** *-LE/SY to ask PCC to consider working with the school to develop an annual plan so that we can plan events more strategically.* ***Action -****JW to send KB dates for learning walk around school to see evidence of vision and how we communicate this to children.* |
| **Community partnerships (including shared church work)** | ***Church events – Harvest Service, Flower and Craft Fayre-9/10 Worship for all services***  ***ICE***  ***Open the Book*** | *KB shared the work the school has completed to promote the Flower/craft festival. The group explored other ways of sharing church events with the school community.* ***Action*** *-JW to include a Church events article for the half termly school Newsletter, next one to go out beginning of December..*  *Discussion of future events this term. We may need to hold Christingle without parents but at least we’ll back in Church for this lovely service. We’ll review nearer to December.*  *CD has communicated with Nick Pitt from ICE and he has confirmed that there is the potential to start up the lunchtime ICE club (could an after school club be considered?) Previous difficulties with a lunchtime space for the club have been solved with the schools additional interventions room and this would make a very suitable space for ICE. JW suggested that maybe the Barn chapel could be considered too. Nick is also looking at whether there are enough adults available to bring Open the Book to Galmpton Action – CD to follow up on her emails in next couple of weeks* |
| **Collective Worship** | ***Sharing the termly plan and current arrangements for worship*** | *Despite challenges from us being an ERA we continue to deliver worships that the children enjoy and learn from. SY feels the novelty of being online has worn off for children although KB assured the group they very much look forward to seeing Reverend Stephen every week. KB shared the termly worship plan with the group and the group agreed that children being able to articulate the vision and how this impacts their lives is more important than listing values. All school worships begin with a revisit of the vision and gateways and CD/KB felt that the children are getting there. Hopefully we will be able to move back to hall worships where it will be easier for children to plan, deliver and evaluate worships. However, this is happening in class worships. Singing worships on hold but will be great to start up again with new music lead and the support from choir lead.* |
| **Religious education** | ***A move to journals! R.E. review to be included in Curriculum review in Autumn 2 -focus on curious explorers*** | *Pupils are now using journals for R.E so that R.E. is in line with other subjects. This will help to raise the status of R.E. but also ensure children understand that the enquiry approach is continued in their R.E. Although journals have been used for a few weeks, teachers are enjoying the wider opportunities, the blank pages given for thinking tools, note taking, drawings and reflective comments. Action -At next Ethos meeting selection of pupil to bring journals to present.*  *LE informed the group of the Autumn 2 monitoring enquiry. VY/LE to work together reviewing R.E. journals in November. Action -LE to confirm a date for KB/VY. 2 KS1/KS2 children to be interviewed with their RE. journals* |
| **Vision and Values work** | ***Website updates***  ***Theological reference for vision*** | *Website has been updated with all key policies now starting with school’s vision and rationale. Church school page updated with new presentation of values.* ***Action-*** *Ethos members to review website and feedback with what’s working well/even better if remarks. LE/KB to include comments in monitoring enquiry.*  *Vision statement needs to be underpinned with theological reference. This was a piece of work begun last year but halted by covid. Ethos group, led by Rev. John Gay had selected a range of biblical references around flourishing. KB thought Psalm 92 - The righteous will flourish like a palm tree, they will grow like a cedar of Lebanon works well. This could be readily understood by children and works well with school’s vision graphic of a seedling growing. Action – VY to check with SY to see if the child speak version - 'Those that live like Jesus will flourish like a Palm tree, they will grow like a fine and strong tree’. Psalm 92:12 is theologically sound and suitable.* |
| ***Date of next Meeting:- Tuesday 7th December 10.30am*** | | |

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