

Vision, values and strategic aims

Non nobis solum – Not by ourselves alone

Vision

Gillotts is a high performing, innovative school where every student is valued as an individual, and is supported and encouraged to achieve their potential. We pride ourselves on being inclusive of all, developing academic achievers and individuals who make a positive contribution to society now and in their future lives.

Values

As individuals –we value –

everyone as an individual, capable of growth, change and development; self-respect; self-belief; courage, humour; honesty; integrity; dedication; commitment; generosity of spirit; flexibility; vision; initiative; open-mindedness

In our professional relationships with each other –we value –

all staff, whatever their role; clarity in determining roles and responsibilities; respect for the unique contribution of different parts of the curriculum; effective communication; transparency; teamwork; good timekeeping; pride in our achievements; professional development; confidence in each other's support

In our relationships with our students –we value –

justice; equality; mutual respect; fairness; consistency; courtesy; high expectations; trust; achievement

In the experience of learning in our school –we value –

the joy of learning; creativity; a spirit of enquiry; risk-taking; exploration of ideas; challenge; raising aspiration; inclusion; hard work; celebration of achievement; freedom to express ideas and views; opportunities for reflection; sense of purpose; inventiveness; independence; rigour; mistakes as means of learning

In our capacity as a community school –we value –

partnership with parents, governors and the wider community; lifelong learning; human rights; preparing young people to become effective, responsible citizens; skills for life and for work

In our environment –we value –

an atmosphere conducive to learning; safety; respect for property; healthy living; sustainability

Vision for the medium term

Gillotts School is proud of its successes and proud of its identity. We believe in achievement for all and want to secure the best outcomes for all our learners, without exception. We want to continue to raise students' expectations of themselves and develop them as independent learners, ready for the challenges ahead.

We will build on our success as a highly inclusive and integrated community by enhancing the opportunities for interaction and engagement with the school beyond the planned curriculum, encompassing students' social time within the school day and enhancing opportunities for the use of the school site by the community.

Teaching and learning are at the heart of this school. We see Assessment for Learning as the single most powerful lever for improved teaching and learning, and hence improved attainment and progress. We continue to develop an increasingly personalised approach to CPD recognising that teachers, as professionals, are the best placed to drive their own development.

We will build on our outstanding curriculum, underpinned by a deep understanding of student progress and a commitment to developing the wider skills valued by higher education and employers. Our curriculum will give learners the knowledge and cultural capital they need to succeed in life, whatever their starting point. Knowledge underpins and enables the application of skills – we see knowledge and skills as intertwined.

Seamless, embedded access to ICT supports interaction, collaboration and feedback. We will break down the artificial boundary of the limits of the school day to support the integration of students' learning in school, at home and on the move. A comprehensive and flexible ICT solution is an essential means to this end. Every student has access to a handheld device to motivate and support learning. We will support students to be confident and reflective users of technology, in preparation for their adult lives.

Our motto, "Not by ourselves alone", will continue to underpin an ethos centred on the core values of kindness, respect and living without harm. We know that students will only thrive in their learning when their basic needs are met and we will continue to work towards this goal, through our extended team which offers outstanding pastoral care and by maintaining and developing our partnerships with external agencies who can provide specialist care and support. We will continue to develop the support we offer to parents to enable them in turn to support us as they work alongside their children.

We have an inspirational site – 33 acres with extensive woodland, on the site of the local manor house, parts of which (including two associated cottages) remain. The school is set on the fringes of the town with extensive views across the Thames valley. We want to use the stunning environment to help excite and inspire and students and staff to move the school's performance to the next level, making it an outstanding place to study and work with results securely in the top 10% of schools nationally.

Redeveloping the school environment will enable us to achieve all this by allowing us to maximise the potential of the site. It will support us to meet the challenges we face by ensuring we have buildings that are fit for purpose and so allow us to focus on our core priority of continuously improving outcomes for all our young people.

Strategic aims

The primary function of the school is to serve its students and the local community in the best possible way. Bearing this in mind, together with the overall target of being an outstanding school, the Governing Body and the School will work together:-

Primarily (Aim 1):

- **To maximise achievement through effective and inspiring teaching**

And:-

Aim 2

- **To maintain a distinctive curriculum offer tailored to the needs of our students, ensuring that 21st century technology is used effectively to support teaching and learning**

Aim 3

- **To promote personal development by the provision of outstanding support and guidance**

Aim 4

- **To provide a built environment fit for the purpose of 21st century teaching and learning**

Aim 5

- **To promote Gillotts' position as Henley's first class community school**

This document was adopted at a meeting of the Governing Body on 1 December 2020. It is reviewed annually.

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Chair of Governors