

Catholic Life at St. Augustine's School.

The Catholic Life of our school is at the heart of everything we do.

Our school mission statement is our prayer.

'Lead us Lord,

To Act Justly,

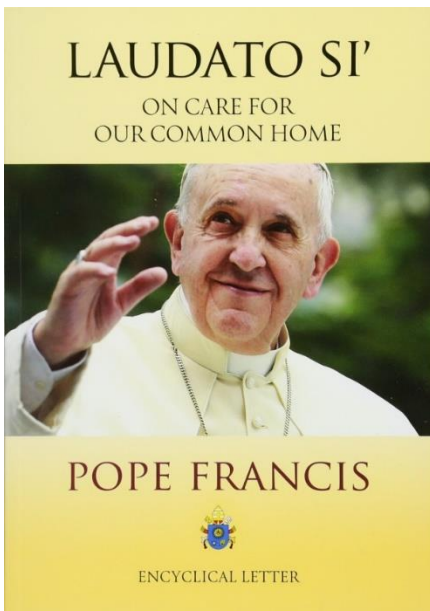
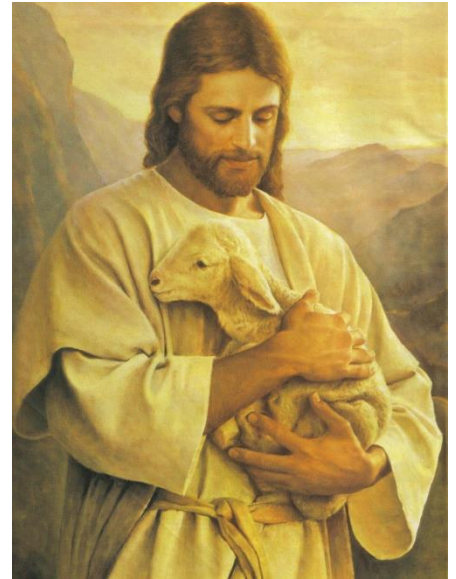
To Love Tenderly,

To walk humbly.

Amen.'

We ask the Lord to lead us in our relationships with one another and in to lead us in all our work at school.

Our Catholic Life encompasses our work in RE and also the Worship Life of our school. We start our working week at school, by coming together as a worshipping community and saying this prayer together.



Laudato Si-On Care for the Common Home - An Encyclical Letter from Pope Francis on care for our World is also central in all our work at school.

We find opportunities through collective worship times, topic teaching and through explicit RE lessons, to learn about, explore and discuss ways to care for one another and how we as caretakers of our world can learn to care for the environment. The children are encouraged to be mindful of the way they use resources responsibly and are careful in the way they consider energy use both at school and in their own homes.

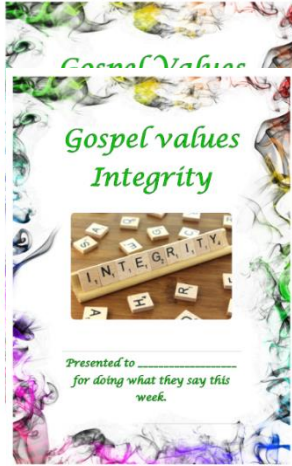
Our curriculum is designed to allow children from Reception to Year 6 to consider how we all have a responsibility to care for our home, our planet, our common home.

To find out more information about Laudato Si, CAFOD have some excellent resources for children. Please follow the link below.

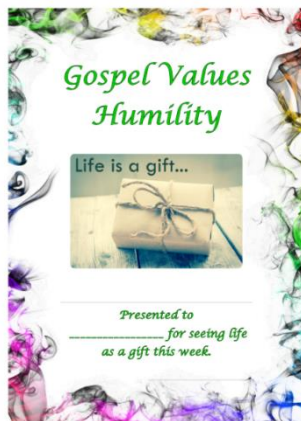
<https://cafod.org.uk/Education/Primary-teaching-resources/Laudato-Si-animation>

Our Gospel Values

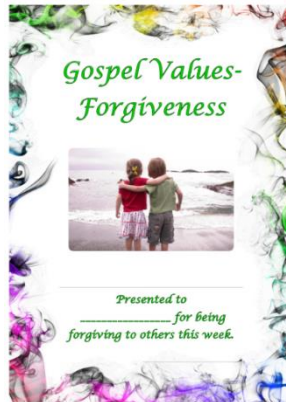
Compassion



Integrity Humility



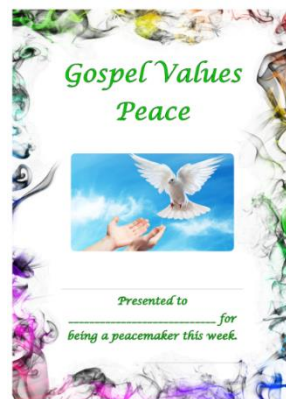
Forgiveness



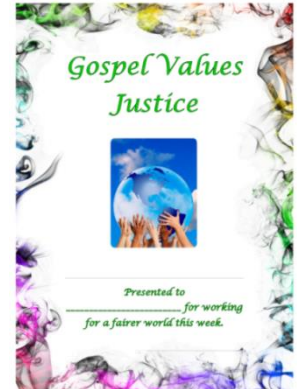
Kindness



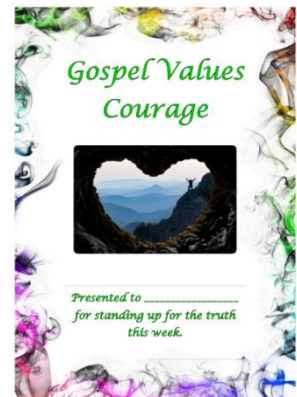
Peace



Justice



Courage



These Gospel Values are integral to us. We start each week with a virtual whole school Liturgy and during this worship time, focus on a gospel value to incorporate into our learning during that week. We also incorporate the teachings from Laudato Si and ask the children to show care for themselves, others and God's creation during this collective worship time. The children who demonstrate the gospel values are awarded Gospel Value certificates in their class bubbles during our whole school Virtual Gospel Value Reflection time which is led by our Year 6 children on a Friday afternoon, completing our cycle of faithful celebration during our working week.

Catholic Virtues



From September 2021, in line with other CAST schools, we are incorporating the Catholic Virtues into our work with the children.

The Catechism of the Catholic Church defines the human virtues as firm attitudes, stable dispositions, habitual perfections of intellect and will that govern our actions, order our passions and guide our conduct according to reason and faith.

The Catholic Virtues are:
Cardinal Virtues-Prudence, Justice, Fortitude and Temperance.
Theological Virtues-faith, Hope and Charity.

Theological and Cardinal Virtues are gifts from God that lead us to live in a close relationship with him. Virtues are like habits.

They need to be practiced; they can be lost if they are neglected.

The theological virtues are important because they come from God and lead to God.

The cardinal virtues are human virtues, acquired by education and good actions.

Cardinal comes from cardo, the Latin word for hinge, meaning "that on which other things depend."

During the academic year 2021-2022, we aim to incorporate the virtues in the following ways:

We will introduce the virtues in the context of our deeply rooted gospel values.

The children will be introduced to the new vocabulary and using the values as our base, we will relate the virtues to our current practice and through working in combination with the values we aim that the introduction of the catholic virtues will be meaningful.

We aim to have a virtue of the month in a similar way to our gospel value of the week and by focussing on a virtue across the school for a sustained period.

In this way we can really unpick the vocabulary and deeper meaning behind each virtue in turn. In a similar way to the way we reward values, we will celebrate children demonstrating the virtues.

On top of incorporating the virtues into our school systems, we will be teaching explicit virtues and incorporating these into our teaching.

By providing the children with a context, we believe that the teaching of the catholic virtues will be well managed.

The RE Curriculum at St. Augustine's School



Come and See

At St. Augustine's Catholic Primary School, we use the 'Come and See' Catholic Primary Religious Education Programme from which to plan our RE Curriculum.

Using this programme helps ensure the effective delivery of Religious Education.

Religious Education is taught discretely and developmentally.

It deepens knowledge and understanding of key theological ideas and their application to life.

Children are given the opportunity to apply and use their knowledge and skills in cross curricular studies to help them deepen their understanding of religious truths and think creatively.

Engagement with their own and others' beliefs and values help the children develop good attitudes and dispositions.

Engagement with difficult questions of meaning and purpose help the children think critically.

Children are offered a sense of self-worth through their experience of belonging to a caring community and an awareness of the demands of a religious commitment in everyday life.



Assessment in RE

Teachers carry out ongoing assessments of the children in RE.

The children are assessed using the Age Related Standards in Religious Education which are arranged in age bands, 3-5, 5-7, 7-9, 9-11.

Parents are informed of their children's progress in RE at Termly Parent/Child/Teacher meetings and by comments written in their child's annual school report.

Prayer and Worship at St. Augustine's School

Worship is important in helping develop our faith. Our children and staff have opportunities to worship on a daily basis.

Class Worship and Voluntary Prayer

Every day, each class says 3 prayers.

Our Morning Prayer

Father in Heaven,

We give you today,

all that we think and do and say.

Please be with us and help us today,

to please you Lord in every way. Amen.

Our Lunchtime Prayer

Thank you for the world so sweet.

Thank you for the food we eat.

Thank you for the birds that sing.

Thank you God for everything. Amen

Our End of the Day Prayer

Now the day is over, we lift our hands and say

Thank you Heavenly Father for today.

We're sorry for the wrong things,

But glad about the right.

Keep us Heaven Father, in your love tonight. Amen.

After lunch every day, each class takes part in Christian meditation. The act of quiet prayer allows our children to be still in the presence of the Lord and allows them to make time for Christ and in doing so, to be calm and contemplative.

Every class has a weekly chapel time, when they use the school chapel for class worship activities. Opportunities for voluntary prayer are encouraged and some children choose to record their prayers in prayer journals.

Other opportunities for voluntary prayer are provided with children writing prayers at our prayer stations and also asking to pray alone or with their classes in the course of the day.



Collective Worship

Our Virtual Monday morning liturgies

We start our week with a whole school liturgy that focuses on the Gospel from the prior Sunday. Each class plays an active role in the liturgy, leading a particular part of the worship.

Within our liturgies we ensure that the Gospel Values and Laudato Si are an integral part. Every class are invited to reflect upon our gospel value for the week and to show that Christ is at the centre of their lives as they try to live out their faith by displaying that gospel value during that week. We then meet virtually as a worshipping community on a Friday afternoon as our Year 6 children write and lead our Gospel Value Reflection. At this reflection time, the Year 6 pupils invite us to reflect on our week at school and 2 children from each class are rewarded with Gospel Value Certificates.

Class Masses and Whole School Masses -On a monthly basis, when the restrictions allow, Father Stephen, our parish priest comes into school to celebrate class masses and whole school masses. Class masses take place for one class and their families in our school chapel. Whole school masses take place in the hall and all our parents are invited. During the masses, children lead readings, prayers, the offertory procession and singing and at whole school masses, some of the children accompany the singing by playing a range of instruments.

Other Liturgical Celebrations- At St. Augustine's School we plan for other liturgical events. During Advent, we dim the lights in the hall and have daily advent reflections. During Lent, we focus on a charitable organization to help and make it our Lenten mission to do good for others. In May, we often have a procession and special liturgy for Mary, the Mother of Jesus and when we are at school On All Saint's Day and Ash Wednesday, we also have special extra whole school liturgies/services.

MAY IS THE MONTH OF
MARY



School Masses in the Parish.



When the restrictions allow, once a month at the 10am Sunday Mass, our school leads readings, prayers and singing in our parish, Our Lady, Star of the Sea, at St. Joseph's Church, Stavordale Road, Weymouth.

The children prepare for the mass in school and then school staff help them serve at church.

Information about the school masses are published in the weekly parish newsletter. A paragraph relating to our work at school also features in the letter on a weekly basis.



Mini-Vinnies and Chaplaincy

In our school when we restrictions allow, we are proud to have an active Mini-Vinnies group made up of children willing to give up their own time to help others. Our Mini-Vinnies are the junior branch of the St. Vincent de Paul Society and meet regularly once a week with a member of staff , with the aim of helping others in the name of Christ.

In our school, any child in Year 6 can join the group and during their meetings, the children pray, write prayers and discuss ways to help others. They then act upon their ideas and together plan, present and lead fundraising activities and other acts of service. During the course of a school year, the Mini Vinnies plan to help people locally, nationally and internationally and every year continue to sponsor 7 children through the St. Vincent de Paul Society to attend school in India.

Within their role, the Mini Vinnies also actively develop the worship life of the school by assisting in preparing for liturgies and by composing and leading prayers. When restrictions allow, they visit classrooms to assist with prayer focus areas and are always available to assist the staff in maintaining communal prayer stations around the school. They also assist any child in our school who wants to pray. In this way they are our role models and we value their input and assistance. We will continue to work with these children and to build up their role in pupil chaplaincy.

Deacon Geoffrey is our school chaplain and when restrictions allow, visits our school on Tuesdays and Wednesdays. He works closely with our children and visits each class from Year 1 to Year 6 on a regular basis. During his time in classes, he opens up discussions linked to 'Big Questions' that children may have about faith.

Deacon Geoffrey has also supported the school staff in his role. He has attended Staff Meetings to provide teaching staff with a pre-topic presentation to ensure that all staff teaching RE understand the theology underpinning the RE topics.

Deacon Geoffrey supports families within his role. He is happy to pray with and for our families and at difficult times, will support the families both spiritually and with practical help. We value his commitment.

During the Coronavirus Pandemic, we have also been very grateful to Deacon Mark from Bridport who has worked with our KS2 classes virtually to provided 'big questions' in RE sessions and to provide a source of support for our school community. We thank him for his hard work.

Sacramental Preparation

To help our children with their sacramental preparation, we have a First Holy Communion Group who meet out of school time twice a month with two members of the school staff when restrictions allow. The children work progressively through a set programme which starts every October, preparing them for their first confessions before Christmas and then leads them in their spiritual journey to prepare them for their First Communion which is celebrated at St. Joseph's Church in June. This is always a joyful occasion that allows us to come together as a worshipping community, supporting the families in our care.

