

# **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.'

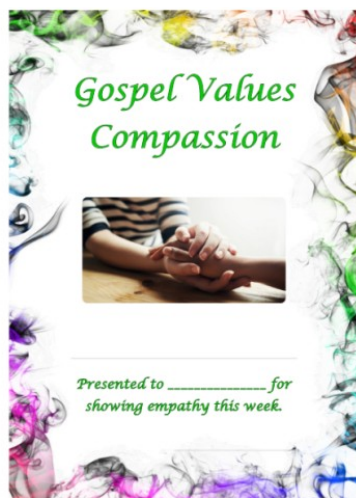
We ask the Lord to lead us in our relationships with one another and in to lead us in all our work at school.

Our Catholic Life encompasses our work in RE and also the Worship Life of our school.

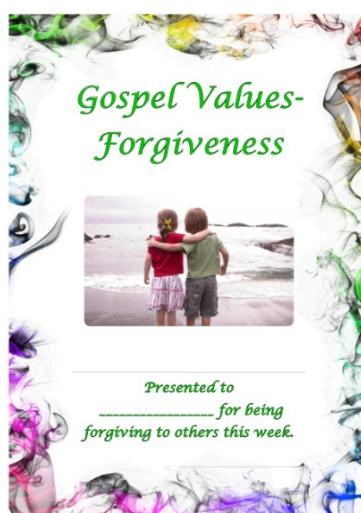


## **Our Gospel Values**

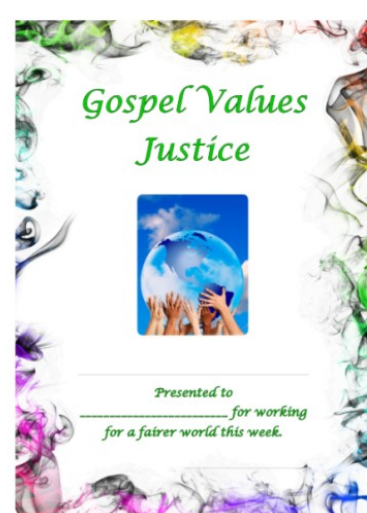
### **Compassion**



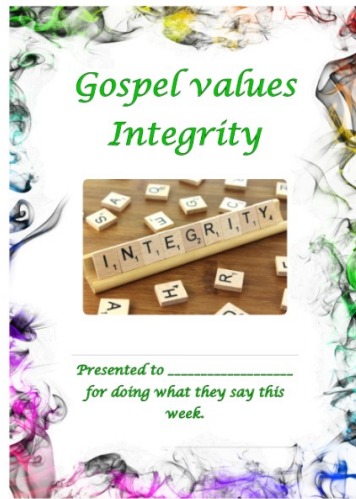
### **Forgiveness**



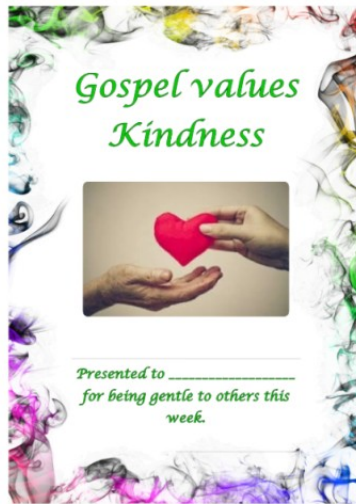
### **Justice**



## **Integrity**



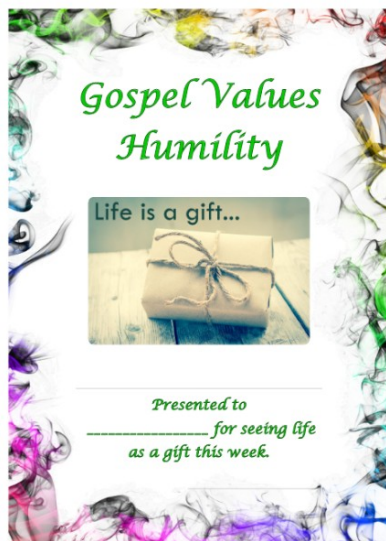
## **Kindness**



## **Courage**



## **Humility**



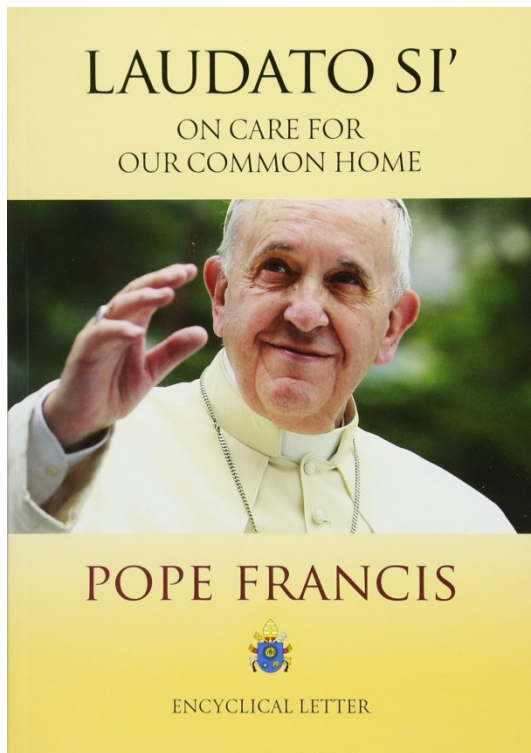
## **Peace**



These are integral to us. We start each week with a whole school Liturgy and during this worship time, focus on a gospel value to incorporate into our learning during that week. The children who demonstrate the gospel values are awarded Gospel Value

certificates every two weeks and their achievements in relation to the values are rewarded in Celebration assembly.

**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 our 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>

**The RE Curriculum at St. Augustine's School**

As a Plymouth CAST School, we follow the God Matters scheme to teach RE. The scheme covers 10 themes throughout the year, guided by the Liturgical calendar. Once a term, we also teach about another world faith.

Each topic explores Scripture, our response to its teachings and Church tradition.

Through their work the children develop their knowledge and understanding,

Creation	Start of Term	4 weeks
Prayers Feasts and Saints	07.10.19	2 Weeks
Islam	21.10.19	1 Week
<b>Half term 28.10.19</b>		
Sacraments	04.11.19	4 Weeks
Advent	02.12.19	2 weeks
Christmas	16.12.19	1 week
<b>SPRING TERM 2020</b>		
Feasts of Christmas - Epiphany	Start of Term	2 weeks
Revelation	20.01.20	4 Weeks
<b>Half Term 17.02.20</b>		
Judaism	25.02.20	1 week
Lent	02.03.20	3 weeks
Holy Week	23.03.20	1 week
<b>SUMMER TERM 2020</b>		
Easter	14.04.20	4 weeks
Pentecost and Mission	11.05.20	2 weeks
<b>Half Term 25.05.20</b>		
Pentecost and Mission	02.06.20	2 weeks
Sikhism	15.06.20	1 week
Hinduism	22.06.20	1 week
Big Questions of Faith Project RE e.g. Going Back to Areas of Concern	29.06.20	Until End of Term

Retreat/Pilgrimage Experiences		
--------------------------------	--	--

The children develop their skills in RE by

Learning about RE-Knowledge and Understanding-AT1

Learning from RE-Engagement and Response-AT2

From Year 3 upwards- Analysis and Evaluation-AT3

### **Assessment in RE**

Teachers carry out ongoing assessments of the children in RE.

The children are assessed using the Standards for RE 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.

At St. Augustine's School, our chaplain, Deacon Geoffrey also prays with any child or group who would like to pray.

### **Collective Worship**

**Monday morning liturgies** start our week with a focus on the Gospel reading from the prior Sunday. Children write and lead the prayers of intercession and within this act of worship, Gospel Values and Laudato Si become an integral part. Children leave the hall with a thought for the week and a prayer focus to stimulate prayers and discussions back in the classroom.

**Sing and Praise** takes place once a week. This act of worship starts with our school mission statement prayer and this is



followed by the Our Father. The children take part in singing worship songs and hymns and then during this act of worship, children read prayers they have written. We also pray the Hail Mary and the Glory be prayers.

**Class Masses and Whole School Masses** -On a monthly basis, Father Stephen, our parish priest comes into school to celebrate class masses and whole school masses. He is accompanied by Deacon Geoffrey, our school chaplain. 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.**



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, The Winston Group and School Chaplaincy**

In our school we 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 Years 5 and 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.

To see all our fundraising activities for the academic year 2019-2020, please read our Fundraising Letter that we sent out to parents, in this section of the website.

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. 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 a source of help for any child in our school who wants to pray. In this way they are our role models and we value their input and assistance.

Deacon Geoffrey is our school chaplain and is in 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. Within his role, Deacon Geoffrey leads the 'Winston Group.' These are a group of older pupils who are readily available at lunchtimes to be a friend to those who are feeling sad or who just need a little bit of help to find a friend to play with. The Winston Group also help to mediate if children are having minor disagreements and are always on hand to give helpful, practical advice.

Deacon Geoffrey also supports the school staff in his role. He attends 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.

### **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. 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.

