

St Augustine's Catholic Voluntary Academy

We grow and learn as a family in the footsteps of Jesus

Newsletter

20th September 2019

Farewell Father Simon

Religious Education at St Augustine's

Religious Education is central to the curriculum at St Augustine's and is at the heart of the philosophy of Catholic education. It teaches about our faith in the context of a school which proclaims the Gospel, and invites the individual to respond to the message of Christ. As the individual responds to this invitation, growth in faith and knowledge helps the pupil to respond to the call to holiness and understand the fullness of what it is to be human. Please find below the results of the R.E. Parent Survey from May 2019. There were 21 replies to the parent survey.



Religious Education Survey 2019					
	Strongly agree	agree	disagree	Strongly disagree	Don't know
My child enjoys R.E.	38%	42%	9.5%	9.5%	0
I am happy with the 'Come & See' R.E. Curriculum	16%	42%	0	0	42%
I am satisfied with my child's standard of work in R.E.	14%	57%	0	0	33%
The school keeps me informed of my child's progress in R.E.	14%	28%	33%	9.5%	14%
The school keeps me informed about what my child is studying in R.E.	14%	57%	28%	0	0
The work my child does in R.E. enables them to think spiritually, ethically and theologically.	19%	52%	14%	0	14%
R.E. is well-led.	14%	28%	4%	0	42%

Survey Comments from Parents

What I like about Religious Education at St. Augustine's:

'I like that it teaches stories about the bible and how it relates to real life today-make it relevant.'
'I like that my children can come home and tell me what things they've learned. They have questions and can apply the lessons.'
'It helps children from a young age to learn and appreciate God.'
'The R.E. has helped my child massively as she has suffered loss within the family and she has dealt with this using the knowledge she has from her lessons-thank you!'
'It teaches good values and morals.'
'I like that my child learns more about Catholic life. I am very happy that my child can visit church.'

What I would like to see improved about Religious Education in St Augustine's:

'As a non-religious person, I don't see much teaching of that, you do multi-faith things but no no-faith.'
'More religions and faiths talked about to create an understanding and acceptance of all faiths.'
'More church visits. Other parents making an effort to be involved with the R.E. aspect of the school.'
'Are we permitted to use Understanding Christianity resource? This excellent resource provides greater depth in key concepts such as Salvation, Creation etc'
'I feel the R.E. has helped lots this past year, from being able to use prayers learnt at school to being 'matter of fact' about death. I feel the school do a wonderful job!'

In response to the survey, parents will now be better informed of the R.E. curriculum via a termly newsletter (see attached).

As a Catholic school, we teach the Catholic faith as prescribed by the Diocesan scheme of work called, 'Come and See.' We also compare similarities and differences with other religions such as Judaism and Islam.

Parents are always welcome to join school for liturgies and masses and once our new priest is in place, we will organise the dates for those.

Trim Trail

We kindly ask that anyone waiting to collect pupils at home time refrain from sitting on the play equipment in the school grounds. The trim trail is designed to take the weight of young children only and **not** adults.

New topics

Every class has begun their new exciting topics and details of what the children are learning will be emailed home tonight in the topic overview for parents.

Open classroom

All parents are invited to our first Open Classroom of the year on **Friday 27th September from 2.30pm**. Please come along to meet your child's teacher, visit the classroom and chat to the children about their learning.



Any Problems

All staff at St Augustine's are committed to working in partnership with parents in the best interests of every child. If you have a concern about your child at school, your first port of call is the class teacher, who will be happy to meet with you and work together to resolve problems. For more serious issues, Mr Atter, the Assistant Head and myself are always willing to meet with parents by appointment.



ParentPay

COUNT ON US

All children will have taken home an activation letter today to give parents access to ParentPay. This is being introduced at St Augustine's to provide you with a simple, convenient way of receiving communications as well as paying for meals, school visits, swimming lessons and very soon, Little Stars breakfast and after school club.

ParentPay is very user friendly. There is now a ParentPay tab on the *Parents* section of the school website with handy information to help get you started.

Mrs Rudkin will be running three sessions for parents in the school hall on **Thursday 26th September at 9am, 3.15pm and 5.30pm** to give a full overview of the system. She will also be available each day to support anyone who needs a helping hand.

After **18th October** we will be a cashless school and so please do activate your ParentPay account as soon as possible to familiarise yourself with the system.

We are committed to ensuring the school office runs smoothly and efficiently and Parentpay is a vital step on this journey so that we can communicate consistently and effectively with everyone.



Friends of
St Augustine's

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Augustine's on
Facebook to keep up to
date with all the latest
events and fundraising!**

*Just type 'friends of St Augustine's'
into the search bar and look for our
logo.*

Diary Dates

Celebration Assembly: Every Friday at 2.45pm (unless otherwise notified) there will be a Celebration Assembly in the School Hall (enter via main reception) which all families are welcome to attend.

25 th September (am)	Year 1/2 to visit Stamford Library
26 th September	Years 5 and 6 - Wilds Lodge Festival of Music and Arts
26 th September	Parentpay sessions for parents in school 9am, 3.15pm, 5.30pm
27 th September	Year 5/6 Bridge Taster Session
27 th September 2.30pm	Whole School Open Classrooms
2 nd October	Year 2/3 to visit Stamford Library
7 th October	Parent/Teacher meetings 3.15-5.15pm
8 th October	Parent/Teacher meetings 5.00-7.00pm
9 th October	Book Bus in School
15 th October	School Open Morning for prospective families
18 th October	Last day of term
21 st to 25 th October	HALF TERM
28 th October	First day back to School
1 st November	Mass in Church at 10am (whole school)
20 th November	Flu Vaccinations (Reception to Year 5) – consent required.
29 th November	Year 5/6 start swimming lessons on Fridays until 14 th Feb.
19 th December	Whole School Christmas Lunch
20 th December	Last day of term
23 rd Dec to 3 rd January	School Holiday
6 th January	Training Day for Staff
7 th January	First day back at School
28 th February	Year 2/3 start swimming lessons on Fridays until 15 th May.
22 nd May	Year 1/2 start swimming lessons on Fridays until 17 th July.