



St. Augustine's Catholic Voluntary Academy

*To grow and learn as a family
in the footsteps of Jesus*



A warm welcome to St Augustine's Catholic Voluntary Academy

On behalf of everyone here I would like to warmly welcome you and your family to St. Augustine's Catholic Voluntary Academy. We are a one-form entry primary school catering for children from 4-11 years of age. As the only Catholic primary school in Stamford, we take pride in our inclusive approach and as a result welcome children from all faith backgrounds and none.

Through a rich curriculum, dynamic teaching and a nurturing environment, our pupils thrive and are motivated to achieve endless possibilities. With the children placed at the heart of every decision we make, we ensure they are happy, confident and independent in themselves and their learning.

Please take a look at our school via the video on our website:

www.st-augustine.lincs.sch.uk

Kind regards,

Mrs Tina Cox
Headteacher

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and learn as
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the footsteps
of Jesus*



At St. Augustine's, our vision is to provide the highest quality of education within a Catholic ethos. We achieve this by living out our mission statement everyday;

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

From the moment you step into our warm and welcoming school, we hope that you will feel that staff build strong relationships with the children and see them learning in a safe and nurturing environment, like a family.

Our 12 core virtues, chosen by our stakeholders, underpin everything we say and do at St. Augustine's; **Love and Respect, Friendship and Kindness, Honesty & Forgiveness, Hope and Confidence, Love of Neighbour and Self Control, Love of Learning and Determination.**

Through daily practice of reflection, we help each child to flourish, developing their own unique gifts and talents in order to fulfil their potential and live life to the full.

Catholic Life



As a Catholic School, Christ is at the centre of all that we do at St. Augustine's. Together with home and parish, our school is a place where children experience the Gospel and the Church as a community of God's people and grow in understanding of the world and themselves.

We believe that each of us were created in God's own image with our own unique gifts and talents. Families are invited to join us for many liturgical celebrations, such as All Saints, Christmas and St. Augustine's Day at our local parish church, St Mary and St Augustine. Our parish priest visits the school to celebrate Mass, provide support for curriculum areas and to join us for a variety of events. We make time in each day to come together in collective worship to give thanks to God for all that is good in our school and in our world. We teach children about prayer and give them opportunities for reflection throughout the school day.

We strive to include all children in worship, encouraging them to take part through reading, discussions and singing. We ensure that the topics explored during our worship are relevant to the children's lives and presented in a way that is easy for them to understand.

Religious Education

We follow the 'Come and See' Catholic Primary Religious Education Programme. Links are made with the children's own experiences and the curriculum is adapted to make it purposeful for our children, always meeting them where they are in their faith journey. R.E. is taught in all classes and, as required by the Bishops of England and Wales, with 10% of curriculum time allocated to the teaching of RE.

The programme covers a range of challenging themes that helps children to explore the beliefs and values of the Catholic Church as well as those from other faith traditions.

Our Curriculum

At St. Augustine's, we offer a rich and exciting curriculum. The core subjects of English, maths, science and R.E are complemented by history, geography, art and design, design technology, physical education, music, French and R.H.S.E, which is taught discretely, with equal weighting given to all subjects across the term.

Our curriculum is designed to allow children to develop concepts, skills and knowledge and to understand their place in the world. Our teaching often starts in 'hook books' that link thematically to other subject areas.

To ensure that our pupils know more and remember more, we interleave and revisit prior learning; key knowledge is built sequentially with skills building year on year.

Mathematics

At St Augustine's we ensure our children have access to a high-quality maths curriculum that is both challenging and enjoyable. We provide our children with a variety of mathematical opportunities, which will enable them to have secure mathematical foundations and the skills they need. Our maths teaching builds in small steps to scaffold learning so that all children are supported.

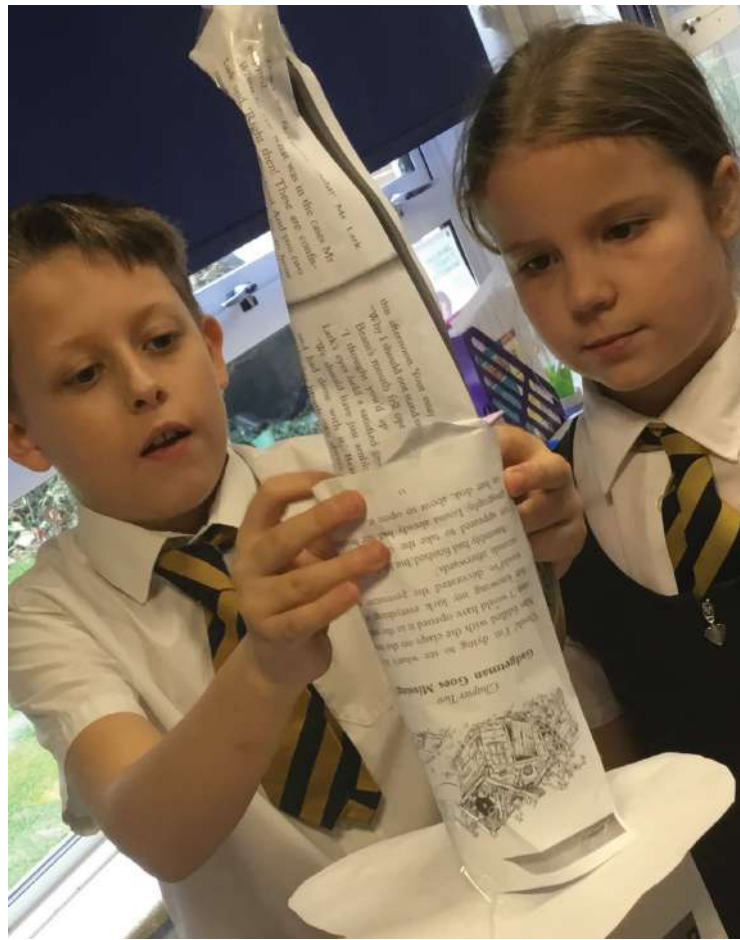
We ensure that children have opportunities to apply maths in a real context, developing their problem solving skills, logical reasoning and the ability to think in abstract ways, expressing their thought processes and ideas through maths talk.

English

Learning to read is one of the most important things your child will learn at our school. Being able to read has a powerful effect on our capacity to learn, develop and grow. So, we put as much energy as we possibly can into making sure that every single child learns to read as quickly as possible.

We start teaching children to read using Read Write Inc phonics in Early Years. We also teach 'Book Talk' across the school, which is a systematic way to teach reading strategies such as understanding vocabulary, metaphors and inference.

Children at our school are taught to write by learning all the skills for writing and developing a writer's toolkit. Teachers model great writing and enable children to write confidently for a range of different purposes including stories, poetry, letters and balanced arguments.





Early Years Foundation Stage

At St. Augustine's, we deliver a curriculum for our youngest children based on the framework for the early years Foundation Stage.

We implement the seven areas of learning and development through planned and purposeful play.

Our youngest children in early years have a safe and stimulating environment in which to learn. You will see the children playing and exploring, being active and creating and thinking critically. We know this approach is how children learn best. Some activities are led by the adults and others are child-initiated and both contribute to full rich learning experiences indoors and outdoors.

We have a well-resourced classroom and a dedicated early years garden with water play, gardening, bikes and trikes, mud kitchen and our very own conker tree!

Special Educational Needs and Disabilities Provision

As an inclusive school, we work in partnership with parents to identify and support children with additional needs, whether their needs are around communication and interaction, cognition and learning, social, emotional and mental health or sensory and/or physical difficulties.

The Special Educational Needs Co-ordinator (SENDCO) works closely with the class teachers and outside agencies to ensure that the child's needs are met. Parents are encouraged to engage with school as we support the child through an individualised program. All children with SEND are fully integrated into school life and are educated within the classroom setting to ensure pupils have access to a full and broad curriculum.

Communication with Parents

Parent Teacher meetings

Teachers meet formally with parents at the Parent Teacher meetings in the Advent and Lent terms to update parents on their child's progress and attainment. An annual academic report is completed at the end of the Pentecost term.

Email and voicemail

All teachers and office staff have email and we have a school voicemail service. Full contact information can be found on our website.

Newsletters

The Head Teacher publishes a weekly newsletter. Copies are emailed to parents and are archived on the website. It contains details of upcoming events, news and information for families in the school community.

Curriculum Overviews

At the beginning of each term, parents receive an overview of their child's new topic. It keeps parents informed of the main content of the topic for each subject as well as useful information for parents about the term ahead including homework. Copies are available on the class pages of our website.

Seesaw App

Parents can stay connected with their child's learning via a safe online community called Seesaw. It enables teachers to share photos and videos of wonderful classroom moments with parents throughout the school week and interact with parents and children.

Class Dojo App

Children earn virtue points across the week to celebrate their successes.

Extra-curricular activities

Our school offers a range of clubs for children to enjoy throughout the academic year, including football, netball, orienteering, chess, junk modelling, book worms, crochet and multi-sports. Children are given many sporting opportunities to represent their House team and the school in local sporting fixtures and competitions. We encourage our pupils to run the 'Daily Mile' at school and we ensure playtimes and lunchtimes are fun and active.

We offer children the chance to learn to play musical instruments such as the recorder, guitar and drums. There are many opportunities for our pupils to take on responsibility roles in school such as the school council, Chaplaincy team, Sports Ambassadors and House captains that develop their leadership skills.

Our Facilities

St. Augustine's has extensive grounds with large, well equipped playgrounds and sports field. Children in all year groups make use of our fantastic outdoor facilities including a nature area which supports our outdoor learning and a gazebo for classes to use as part of their everyday learning. Our Early Years and Key Stage 1 classes have their own outdoor learning spaces attached to their classrooms.

Inside school, our hall has a fully equipped stage which provides an excellent facility for productions. Our cosy library is a place where children can enjoy reading and researching. We also have a separate dining hall and spaces for small groups to meet and work together.

Breakfast & Afterschool Club

We offer childcare from 7.30am until the start of the school day and from the end of school until 6pm every day. We have created a "home from home" for the children called 'Little Stars' based in their own space within the school. Children are served breakfast and a light tea in the evening.

A range of activities are available each day indoors and outside in the school grounds. Places can be booked directly using the ParentPay app.

Safeguarding

All staff at St. Augustine's are committed to creating a safe environment for our pupils through robust safeguarding practices. We make sure that all adults who work in the school are well trained and know how to respond if they have concerns about a child's wellbeing and provide early help. We work closely with agencies and services to plan timely interventions or provide targeted support.

Joining Our School

Parents wishing to apply for a place at St. Augustine's should complete Lincolnshire County Council's School application process which is found online at <https://www.lincolnshire.gov.uk/school-admissions>

*We look forward to welcoming you
and your child to St. Augustine's.*





St. Augustine's Catholic Voluntary Academy

Kesteven Road,
Stamford,
Lincolnshire PE9 1SR

Telephone: 01780 762094

Email: enquiries@st-augustine.lincs.sch.uk