

STATEMENT OF SCHOOL ETHOS & VALUES



ST AUGUSTINE'S C OF E PRIMARY

Document Name	Statement of School Ethos & Values
Document written by	Jane Murphy
Date for next revision*	March 2019
Responsibility	Ethos and Ethics Committee
Approved by	Local Advisory Board

*subject to any relevant changes in legislation or other appropriate guidelines

Version	Date	Reviewed	Approved	Signature
1.0	07/03/2018	JANE MURPHY	FR MICHAEL FISH	

CONTENT

		Page No
1.	Introduction	
2.	Ethos – Meaning and Understanding	3
3.	Pupils	3
4.	Staff	3
5.	School Leadership	4
6.	Relationships	4
7.	Parent-School Relationship	4
8.	Community and Places of Worship	4
9.	Worship	4
10.	Teaching and Learning	5
11.	Extra-Curricular Activities	5
12.	The Physical Environment	5
13.	Equality and Justice	5
14.	Actions for the Ethos and Ethics Committee of the Local Advisory Board	6
	<i>Appendix A – Christian Values Statement</i>	7
	<i>Appendix B – Our Mission Statement</i>	9
	<i>Appendix C – Our Values Tree</i>	10

INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 At St Augustine's C of E Primary school our Ethos and values are at the core of everything we do. They underpin our teaching and learning, and provide an environment which prepares our pupils as confident, happy citizens.
- 1.2 We believe there is a very simple, yet highly effective formula to providing our pupils with an excellent education – children need a happy school atmosphere, limited class sizes and to have high expectations of themselves.
- 1.3 This statement aims to clearly set out these high expectations, we as a school not only have of ourselves, but of our children, staff and families alike.
- 1.4 This statement takes into account and works in accordance with British values, including mutual respect & tolerance of those with different faiths. By ensuring we work in unison we can reach our goal of 'achieving excellence together'.

ETHOS – MEANING & UNDERSTANDING

- 2.1 **“Ethos”**: A Greek word meaning "character" that is used to describe the guiding beliefs or ideals that characterize a community, nation, or ideology.
- 2.2 At St Augustine's the general ethical principles that we outline adopt the values of 'doing positive good' and 'the avoidance of harm' and these should be at the heart of the ethos we are creating in the school.

PUPILS

- 3.1 Pupils feel all are valued, unique and precious as children of God.
- 3.2 Pupils' growth and learning are the reasons for the school's existence.
- 3.3 Pupils are engaged in something enjoyable and worthwhile and meaningful.
- 3.4 Pupils have a sense of pride in themselves and their school.

STAFF

- 4.1 All staff feel that they are valued and affirmed.
- 4.2 Staff are accorded professional and personal respect.
- 4.3 Staff are supported and challenged by the church and by all involved in the life of the school.
- 4.4 All staff see the importance of, and derive a sense of fulfilment from, their work in school.

4.5 Staff are committed to the Christian ethos of the school.

SCHOOL LEADERSHIP

5.1 The Principal and foundation governors promote the Christian Vision and the Christian Values for the school. The Principal, Local Advisory Board (LAB) members and senior management maintain and enhance the Christian ethos of the school.

5.2 The Principal, LAB and senior management provide direction, support and encouragement to the school community.

RELATIONSHIPS

6.1 Fruitful and caring relationships exist between members of the school community, characterised by Christian love, forgiveness, kindness, respect and trust and a mutual concern for each other's well-being.

PARENT – SCHOOL RELATIONSHIP

7.1 Parents and careers are aware of and support the Christian character of the school. They feel that they are treated as partners in their children's education.

7.2 They are kept informed and up-to-date.

7.3 They are recognised as having a vital contribution to make, and assisted in their efforts to do so.

COMMUNITY AND PLACES OF WORSHIP

8.1 The school feels valued and supported by the local places of worship and community.

8.2 The school actively supports the local places of worship and community.

8.3 The school supports the worldwide church.

8.4 The school shares its understanding of its role with the local places of worship and its role in developing community cohesion.

WORSHIP

9.1 Worship is seen as a focus for the life of the school.

- 9.2 Pupils and staff derive inspiration, affirmation of self and strength from worship.
- 9.3 There is an explicit link between the Christian foundation, the schools Worship Policy and general practice.
- 9.4 Pupils and staff have opportunities to experience spiritual growth from worship.

TEACHING AND LEARNING

- 10.1 The learning experience is stimulating and demonstrates the core value of care for each other.
- 10.2 Organisation of, and access to, resources encourage independence and inter-dependence.
- 10.3 The school provides a calm and purposeful environment in which the work and life of the community is able to flourish without interruption or intimidation.
- 10.4 The school challenges pupils to achieve their full potential.

EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

- 11.1 Opportunities are provided for personal development, including spiritual development.
- 11.2 Good relationships are fostered outside the taught curriculum.

THE PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT

- 12.1 The school witnesses to its Christian foundation through visual symbols.
- 12.2 The school witnesses to its Christian foundation by being a secure, welcoming and inspiring environment
- 12.3 The school provides an environment where individuals may grow spiritually being aware of the diversity of faiths within its community.
- 12.4 All feel a shared responsibility for the environment

EQUALITY AND JUSTICE

- 13.1 There is a commitment to promote the Christian values of justice, equality and respect for the individual, which is understood and shared by all and reflected in the everyday life of the school.

- 13.2 Good order is achieved and maintained with justice and compassion, protecting the needs of all and plays its part in understanding and developing community cohesion.

ACTIONS FOR THE ETHOS AND ETHICS COMMITTEE OF THE LAB

- 14.1 To meet at least twice per year.
- 14.2 To review the School's Mission Statement and Christian Values incorporating the values found in this document. (See [Appendix A](#) - Christian Values Statement & [Appendix B](#) – Our Mission Statement below)
- 14.3 To ensure these principles underpin the schools development plan.
- 14.4 To monitor the progress of the school against these principles.
- 14.5 To encourage the school to adopt key actions that will bring life and real engagement with these principles.

APPENDIX A - CHRISTIAN VALUES STATEMENT

Building better futures together.....



Compassion: Here at St Augustine's pupils are encouraged to be empathetic and sympathetic in understanding the needs of those around them.

Forgiveness: Here at St Augustine's pupils are encouraged to forgive the actions of others and reflect on those actions with understanding and tolerance.

Friendship: Here at St Augustine's pupils are encouraged to be the best friend they can be, treating others with love, kindness and thoughtfulness.

Respect: Here at St Augustine's children are encouraged to respect others and their environment, treating all with kindness.

Thankfulness: Here at St Augustine's pupils are encouraged to show appreciation to others and celebrate their work. Pupils are encouraged to self-reflect and be thankful through daily prayers.

Trust: Here at St Augustine's pupils are encouraged to trust one another and have a firm belief in the school and its systems, resulting in pupils who are positive and confident in their learning.

Perseverance: Here at St Augustine's we work together to overcome any obstacles, however challenging, to achieve our goals. We try and try again, building resilience which helps us deal with any disappointments on our journey to success.

Courage: Here at St Augustine's pupils are encouraged to show courage and bravery through trying new experiences and pushing themselves to achieve their potential.

Justice: Here at St Augustine's pupils are encouraged to promote British and co-operative values and attitudes of democracy, rule of law, individual liberty, tolerance of others and justice within the school and wider communities.

Service: Here at St Augustine's pupils are encouraged to understand the idea of service and how they can support the school community, the local community and the international community through charity.

Truthfulness: Here at St Augustine's pupils are encouraged to pursue truthfulness and promote honesty at all times.

Generosity: Here at St Augustine's pupils are encouraged to show generosity through kindness and giving, whether this is through time, support or charity.

Here at St Augustine's we encourage pupils to understand and promote our school Christian values. We promote Christian values through the celebrations such as Christmas, Easter and Harvest, and through prayer and reflection. Through reflection and prayer we also work to take each child on their own faith journey.

APPENDIX B – OUR MISSION STATEMENT

Building better futures together ...

...based on Christian Values

Here at St Augustine's we encourage children to understand our Christian values Generosity, Compassion, Courage, Forgiveness, Friendship, Respect, Thankfulness, Trust, Perseverance, Justice, Service and Truthfulness. We promote Christian values through the celebrations such as Christmas, Easter and Harvest, and through prayer and reflection. Through reflection and prayer we also work to take each child on their own faith journey.

...by nurturing each child's faith journey

Here at St Augustine's we want all our children to grow in their own faith. For our younger children, linking the major festivals gives a structure within which to deepen their knowledge of their own faith story.

...through enabling "lifelong" learning

Here at St Augustine's we promote lifelong learning through the progression of key skills, such as reading and writing but also through developing life experiences such as going to the Post Office.

...by promoting high standards

Here at St Augustine's we promote the very highest academic standards, moving from concrete operations, to the abstract ensuring mental agility based on sound practice. All our children learn their times tables in our Assertive Mentoring Programme and old fashioned life skills for a modern child.

...through nurturing enquiring minds

Here at St Augustine's we encourage all our children to get a love of learning that takes them beyond the classroom into the wider world. Children are able to investigate and find answers to the questions they have generated. Developing an inquiring mind is a key skill in the promotion of deep learning as well as leading you down new unexplored paths.....

...by valuing ourselves and others

Here at St Augustine's children are encouraged to go on a path of self-discovery. Children learn how to take responsibility for their own learning and personal development, as well as how to treat and respect others.

...by striving to succeed

Here at St Augustine's we work together to overcome any obstacles, however challenging, to achieve our goals. We try and try again, building resilience which helps us deal with any disappointments on our journey to success.

...through the celebration of diversity

Here at St Augustine's we believe that our differences make us stronger. Learning from each other, our traditions and our shared history.

APPENDIX C - OUR VALUES TREE



Our Values Tree

'A tree is known by its fruit'
Matthew 12.33