

unmarked. It takes one person to write, or even worse, to gouge initials and these desks are spoilt forever. Please take care of surfaces and walls. If you discover that the desk you normally use has new graffiti on it, please report this straight away to your teacher. Many of the walls along our corridors or in classrooms have displays of pupils' work, reproduction paintings or posters on them. Again, thank you for respecting these and for alerting staff immediately if you see any damage to them.

A shared journey: School buses are a moving shared space:

Your school bus is a mobile, often crowded environment. Smoking, litter and damage to seats can all make a shared journey miserable - so please don't put up with it! Together with the bus companies we follow up every complaint.

The advantages of respecting my environment:

St Augustine's is proud of our pupils and we want you to take pride in belonging to our community. People who are well adjusted and well brought up take personal responsibility for their environment and want to contribute to making it better for everybody. If you take care of the facilities you use every day you are showing signs of real maturity. And if we don't have to spend money each year on repairing unnecessary damage we can put more funds into redecorating, carpeting and air-conditioning all our classrooms and buying in new computers and new furniture. The advantages of respecting your environment could not be clearer. You'll enjoy sharing a clean, modern, well furnished and comfortable school - one that you personally have helped to create.

The price of disrespect:

Every item of graffiti, every piece of litter carelessly thrown on the floor, every act of vandalism to the equipment and property we share is an act of selfishness and disrespect. Although some of these examples might seem not to amount to very much in themselves, over time they start to make an impression. We end up with grounds and buildings which look shabby and neglected. We're too proud to let that happen to St Augustine's! Which is why we're so appreciative of pupils who respect our school and why we will not let anti-social behaviour go unpunished. Individuals who damage or deface school property risk exclusion, police involvement for possible criminal damage and bans from trips and participation in extra-curricular activities. Worse than this, though, are the messages these individuals are giving the rest of us about their own lack of self respect, about their contempt for other people and perhaps about the way they've been brought up. Because most people want to be shown respect, they in turn show respect to other people and to the environment we all share.

*Put simply: it's what makes life more pleasant for everyone!*

Saint Augustine's Roman Catholic High School: Policies

## Caring for our environment

Issued to all pupils and parents in May 2006

*Saint Augustine's is our school!*



*We want to look after it  
because we're proud of it.*

### The reason why we have written this policy:

Nearly every one of you at Saint Augustine's will spend a full five years in our school. Everything here is for your use - the classrooms, the dining room, the hall, the toilets, the computers, the water dispensers, the playgrounds, the fields. Our school's appearance and facilities are improving all the time. Former pupils who come back to visit us can't believe the changes that have taken place since they left. Many parents and staff help us with fundraising or through the PTFA.

*So why do staff, parents and governors want your school to look good?*

*Because they care about you and want to treat you with respect, that's why.*

They also expect you to be proud of your school, to respect your environment and to look after your facilities. We're going to carry on making more improvements at St Augustine's during your time with us, starting this summer [modernised Art rooms] but we can't do this without your help!

### Let's start with litter:

A simple way to respect the environment is by not dropping any litter. Crisp wrappers and other rubbish which blows away from our grounds, can end up in nearby fields causing a risk of choking to calves and other animals.

*Every piece of litter I see around me has been dropped, perhaps accidentally, but probably on purpose by someone. So the question I must ask myself is "Am I part of the problem or part of the solution?" A good habit I can form is to make sure that I keep wrappers and other items in my pocket or bag until I can put them in a bin.*

### Chewing gum is the worst litter problem of all:

The school wants your learning environment to be as comfortable and as attractive as possible. That's why we're continually buying new furniture and carpets. But it is almost impossible to remove chewing gum from carpets. Blotching caused by chewing gum ruins the appearance of entrances and paths. Cleaning staff hate having to remove chewing gum from under desks or chairs. It is a horrible job caused by other people's disgusting habits.

### Looking after your Dining Room:

The school shows its respect for pupils by trying to improve the quality of food served at lunchtime and making the dining area as attractive as possible.

*I show respect for other pupils and for our catering staff by not leaving any food, trays, plates, knives, forks, spoons, wrappers or sauce sachets behind me on the table or on the floor. If I want to sit down at a clean table it is only fair that I should tidy up around me before leaving so that other pupils can also eat in pleasant conditions. My school dining room is not some fast food joint where rubbish can be left behind for someone else to pick up.*

### How I use our toilets affects all the others who share them:

Even though some toilets currently need modernising they are thoroughly cleaned and disinfected every evening and are in spotless condition at the start of each new day. Over the next few years all the toilets in the school will be upgraded to hotel standard. The first phase [Music/Drama corridor] was completed last year. Members of the Pupil Council chose the colour schemes.

*I show respect for other pupils, the cleaning staff, but above all for myself, by the way I use toilet facilities. Just as someone is responsible for every piece of litter dropped around the school, individual pupils are responsible for the blocked sinks and urinals, unflushed toilets, spilt water and misuse of toilet paper which spoil facilities meant to be shared by everybody.*

*Fortunately, times are changing and most pupils at our school are not prepared to put up with anti-social behaviour. So if you want clean toilets report any damage or vandalism immediately! This is not "grassing" - this is standing up for your rights! Your anonymity will always be protected.*

### Water dispensers: please take care of them:

Water dispensers have been installed around the school for your health and physical comfort. They cost a lot to run and are even more expensive to repair. It's great that we can now all fill up on chilled, filtered water without having to buy bottles. *Please remember that the water coming out of the dispenser is also being filtered and chilled at the same time. This is why it cannot flow very quickly.* A little patience is needed! If the dispenser is pushed or banged it gets damaged and can't be used again until it is repaired - which can take several days. Please use small transparent plastic bottles only - larger ones cause spillage. Throwing water is unacceptable behaviour.

*I show respect for other people who need to use the water dispensers by not doing anything which might damage them and by immediately reporting any attempt at vandalism.*

### We're a non-smoking school and we intend to stay that way:

When you smoke, I smoke...even if I don't want to. There is a sharp decline in the number of people who smoke as more of us realise the frightening damage it causes. Smoking is banned in school and on buses. Smoke detectors are being installed in the new toilets. If you see smoking, report it!

### Desks, tables and walls: Clean and graffiti-free for everyone:

Please respect the fact the surfaces you work on such as desks and tables are used by other people as well. The school has spent thousands of pounds on new desks for public examinations and for classrooms which are spotless and