1 October 2018

Dear Parents and Carers,

**Plymouth CAST Vision and Values Consultation**

St Mary’s Axminster belongs to a wider family of Catholic schools across the South West of England.

In April 2014, Plymouth CAST was formed as a multi academy trust to look after and nurture our Catholic schools. Until then our schools had been managed by local authorities and, as such, many had felt that their essential purpose and focus was often lost under the direction of the authority.

What makes St Mary’s a Catholic school?

We do strive for excellence within a framework of faith that values every human.

We invite all who are part of our community; children, staff, parents, governors and visitors to feel valued and welcomed and to have a sense of being loved. These are what we call Gospel values; values that come from the bible texts written by Matthew, Mark, Luke and John.

As a leader in a Catholic school, it is an ongoing delight to bring that alive for everyone. A light that shines for all to see, feel and be part of.

Plymouth CAST was formed very rapidly and some schools, like Axminster, have already experienced immense change. It is exciting that we at St Mary’s and at CAST Trust are now in strong position to move forward. St Mary’s has a committed and supportive staff team; really encouraging and knowledgeable governors, as well as a vibrant and supportive parent and pupil community. We can be excited and hopeful about the next phase. Plymouth CAST have a new Trust team and they are now asking for the views of all stakeholders on what Plymouth CAST should aim to be going forward.

Please find attached a statement of vision and values in power point format which has a set of questions within it. This is being distributed to all the schools within Plymouth CAST. If you would like to respond to the questions pertinent to your and your child’s experiences at St Mary’s Axminster, I would delighted to hear from you.

Our faith life is a very positive aspect of our working school values and it is important that you can feel positive about the experience it offers your child. If any aspect of this conversation results in any questions, queries or concerns then please do not hesitate to make an appointment to speak with me.

Please return any written responses to the office by the deadline of 8th October.

Very best wishes

Elaine Mannix

Headteacher