

# Our Curriculum

Here at English Martyrs CVA we aim to provide a broad, balanced curriculum which gives each child a wide range of learning opportunities to develop and foster their natural curiosity and strengthen their desire to learn. We endeavour to make activities purposeful, stimulating, and wherever possible, we encourage learning through first hand experiences. There is a strong emphasis on the basic groundwork which is systematically and progressively taught throughout the school. This means that areas are revisited and skills and knowledge are acquired and built upon, giving continuity and progression to the children's work.

As a school we recognise the benefit of different approaches in achieving effective learning. To support this we use a variety of teaching styles and forms of pupil organisation, which include opportunities for whole class, small group and where possible individual teaching. We have designed our curriculum through incorporating healthy living, achievement, being explorers, taking time to talk and relationships with others, please refer to the curriculum design document for further details. We want our children to become independent resilient learners and therefore we have introduced learning muscles to help encourage all our children to develop a growth mindset facing new challenges, not being afraid to make a mistake and to enjoy learning in all areas of the curriculum, for more details have a look at our learning muscles template !

## **Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS)**

The Early Years foundation stage

- is the single quality framework for children from birth to five;
- the EYFS is firmly rooted in a principled play based approach to learning and development;
- it is designed to give children the best possible start in life, making sure they are safe and able to thrive;
- every child develops differently and at their own pace.

There are six areas of learning which children progress through in overlapping stages.

These are :-

- Personal, social and emotional development
- Communication, language and literacy
- Problem solving, reasoning and numeracy
- Knowledge and understanding of the world
- Physical development
- Creative development

At the end of their EYFS year the children will be assessed against the Early Learning Goals. They will achieve a good level of development if they are expected in personal. Social and

emotional development, communication, language and literacy, physical development, reading, writing and number.

“Plans to support children’s development are appropriately rooted in a sound understanding of child development. Children make rapid progress from their different starting points “

Ofsted report June 2016

### **Key Stage One – Years 1 & 2**

Children learn through topics that they have helped to initiate. Literacy and maths are taught in the morning sessions with a designated curriculum slot for phonics, Spelling, Punctuation and Grammar as well as reading comprehension. Children are taught through learning objectives from the National Curriculum appropriate for their age group. RE is taught for 10 per cent of the curriculum allocation and is cross curricular as much as possible. Assessment is ongoing against the year group learning objectives ( please refer to the presentation on assessment ) At the end of Year One all children will be involved in a government phonics task. At the end of Year Two all children will be assessed through the statutory assessment tasks in reading, writing, SPAG and maths.

### **Key Stage Two – Years 3, 4, 5 & 6**

Children learn through topics that they have helped to initiate. Literacy and maths are taught in the morning sessions with a designated curriculum slot for phonics, Spelling, Punctuation and Grammar as well as reading comprehension. Children are taught through learning objectives from the National Curriculum appropriate for their age group. RE is taught for 10 per cent of the curriculum allocation and is cross curricular as much as possible. Assessment is ongoing against the year group learning objectives ( please refer to the presentation on assessment ) At the end of year six the children will all be involved in the government statutory assessment in reading, writing, maths and SPAG. Teaching promotes high expectations of all children and sets high challenges tailored to the needs of the child. Throughout the key stages, emphasis is placed on building skills for independent thinking and personal responsibility. In Year 6 children have the opportunity to take part in enterprise projects and leadership schemes .

“Pupils make good progress ; outcomes in maths continue to be a consistently strong feature of pupil’s achievement.” Ofsted June 2016.

The transition from Primary to Secondary education is a very important time for the children and so we ensure that great attention is given to making this transition as smooth as possible. We have close links with a number of secondary schools in the area and the children have the opportunity to experience days of art, science, maths or physical education at schools in the local area.

During Term 6 children will be invited to an induction day at their new school enabling us to move all of our children up to their new ‘September’ classes and spend some time with new teachers and a new environment.

We pride ourselves on ensuring that our children leave English Martyrs School with a secure foundation on which to build their learning, confidence, and the desire to succeed in which ever path they choose.

**"Excellent teaching gives children the life chances they deserve...**

**Enjoyment is the birthright of every child. The most powerful mix is the one that brings the two together.**

**Children learn better when they are excited and engaged - but what excites and engages them best is truly excellent teaching."**