

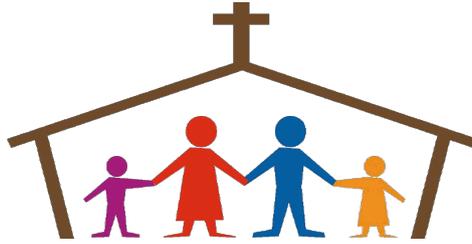
ENGLISH MARTYRS CVA



Information for Parents and Carers

**Religious
Education**





A partnership

At English Martyrs CVA we welcome children from a variety of faiths and backgrounds and we are fully inclusive.

The first educators in the faith are parents. By your example in the home and in your participation in the Mass and other sacraments, the foundations of life-long faith and spiritual development in your children are laid down.

This partnership between home and parish is enhanced by the role of our Catholic school. Through the pattern of daily Prayer, through the celebration of the sacraments of the Church, through works of charity, English Martyrs CVA seeks to be a Christian community in which the content and life of faith is shared.

The meaning of life, as understood in the Catholic faith, is explored and experienced by all those taking part in the life of the school, whether they are baptised Catholics or not.

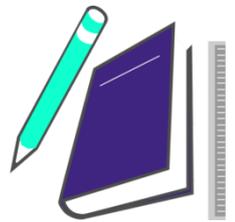
The partnership between home, parish and school is essential for the spiritual guidance of our children.

We have strong links with our parish church and our priest is a regular visitor to school. The parish worship with us in Masses and liturgies and prepare our children for **First Holy Communion**. There is a short section each week about the life of the school in the parish newsletter.

Religious Education

At English Martyrs CVA, religious education is at the centre of the curriculum. The beliefs and values studied in Catholic Religious Education inspire and draw together every aspect of life in Our Catholic school with Christ at the centre.

We are committed to delivering RE teaching as part of our curriculum to enrich the lives of all our children. RE within school is taught in a creative way ensuring that children have an understanding of living out their faith. They are encouraged to reflect and ask questions around the teaching and learning and RE is a core subject at our school.



Time Allocation

The allocation for RE teaching across the school is 2 hours 15 minutes which represents 10% of curriculum time. This time does not include collective worship. All children regardless of faith differences are included in this curriculum.



Collective worship Programme

Monday 10.30- Sunday Gospel Assembly.

We share Sunday's gospel story and think about how we can live out the Gospel values in our daily lives.

Tuesday 10.30- Class Liturgy

Each class prepare and lead a liturgy that is based on our statement of the week.

Wednesday 10.30- Hymn Practice

Thursday 2.45- Class Assembly /Liturgy led by Little Lights Chaplaincy group and member of staff, a Chapel challenge is set at this assembly.

Friday 9.10- Celebration Assembly (parents welcome)

Our school chapel is used regularly for the children to prepare liturgies and have quiet prayer and reflective time.

Every half term we hold a Tuesday mass for the Parish at school where everyone is welcomed.

We also attend Mass at St Joseph's church on major Feast days.



Come and See

How is Religious Education taught at school?

Come and See

At English Martyrs CVA in line with all Catholic primary schools in our Diocese we follow a programme for Foundation and Key Stages 1 and 2 called Come and See.

The programme was written by a group of experienced Diocesan Advisors. It is based on the theological foundations Of the Second Vatican Council, the Catholic Catechism and the revised RE Curriculum Directory and includes assessment for learning.

The Programme

Come and See is taught through three main themes:
Church, Sacrament and Christian Living.

There are nine topics for each year and there is a specific programme for each year group. If a class has a mixed age group a decision is made by the teacher in conjunction with the RE Leader as to which year programme is followed.

Autumn Term

Topic1-Church –Families focus to begin the year.

Topic 2– Sacraments-Baptism (Ks1) Confirmation (Ks2)

Ordination and Marriage (Ks2)

Topic3- Christian Living –Advent/Christmas/Loving

 **Spring Term**

Topic1-Church –Local church and Community

Topic 2– Sacraments- Eucharist/Relating

Topic3- Christian Living –Lent/Easter and Giving.

 **Summer Term**

Topic1-Church – Pentecost and Servng

Topic 2– Sacraments- Reconciliation (KS1)/Interrelating Sacrament Of
The Sick (KS2)

Topic3- Christian Living – Universal Church/ World.

How is Religious Education taught and assessed?

RE is assessed against two Attainment Targets

AT 1 Learning about religion – Facts



(i) Beliefs, teachings and sources What are they and where can they be found?

**(ii) Celebrations and ritual....
Different types of prayer and worship.**

(iii) Social and moral practices and way of life..... The rules we live by.

AT 2 Learning from religion – Feelings and thoughts.



(i) Engagement with own and others beliefs and values... what we believe and how it affects us.

(ii) Engagement with questions of meaning and purpose.... What is the point of our belief ?

Driver Words - focus words for teaching and learning that we expect the children to have an understanding of when we assess them : -
Currently we still report to the diocese using levels but this is gradually changing to working towards expected and exceeding in line with the new assessment criteria.

AT 1

LEVEL 1

RECOGNISE AND NAME

AT2

TALK ABOUT

LEVEL2

RETELL AND DESCRIBE

TALK AND RESPOND

LEVEL 3

GIVE REASONS AND MAKE

LINKS

COMPARE IDEAS

LEVEL4

SHOW UNDERSTANDING

ENGAGE AND RESPOND

LEVEL5

IDENTIFY AND EXPLAIN

DISTINCTIONS

EXPLAIN

The Lessons

Each topic is opened up through - Explore, Reveal and Respond
EXPLORE This is the introduction to the topic where the children's life experience is explored, the question(s) it raises are wondered at, shared, investigated and their significance reflected upon.

EXPLORE

The teacher helps the children to begin to look at and focus on the experience within their own lives – concerning themselves, their relationships and their world. In this way the children are led to a deeper understanding, clearer vision and the discovery of significance and value of the experiential events of everyday life. This will involve: time to complete.

REVEAL

This is the heart of the programme where knowledge and understanding of

The Catholic faith is revealed through the Word, in Scripture, Tradition, doctrine, prayers, rites and Christian living.

Reveal is the heart of the process. The teacher and the children together discover the Christian understanding of the mystery of the Trinity;

Father,

Son and Holy Spirit. They explore the mystery of human life as revealed in

the person, life and gospel of Jesus Christ Christians. It will involve learning

about Scripture, the teaching of the Church, prayers, rites, psalms, hymns

and other expressions of Christian faith and the lives of outstanding Christians.

The process of delivery will involve:

- meeting new knowledge of religious education;
- developing an understanding of this new knowledge;
 - reflecting on the wonder of the mystery;
- gathering information and collecting facts connected with this knowledge;
 - researching, collating and classifying;
 - becoming aware of the questions raised;
- working with problems and grappling with puzzling experiences;
- exploring experiences through story, music, drama, dance, art;
 - exploring what leads to understanding and meaning;
 - asking questions and discussing;
- exploring in creative and practical ways through drama, writing, poetry,

song, dance, music, ICT and service of others;

- making links between Christian understanding and the shared life experience;

- valuing life experience;

- acknowledging and respecting difference(s);

- being open to new perspectives.

REVEAL will take two weeks of Religious Education time to complete.

RESPOND

This is where the learning is assimilated, celebrated and responded to in daily life.

Remember is the first part of this section. The children will respond by remembering and celebrating all that they have learnt. This new understanding will enable them to make a personal response in their daily

lives. This part begins by reflecting on what the children wonder about. This

is followed by providing the opportunity for the children to remember what

they have understood and learnt. This may be done through:

- creating a quiet, prayerful atmosphere for reflection
- looking at and thinking about the work done
- drawing attention to different aspects of this work

 Sharing thoughts and feelings.

Rejoice is the second part of the section. There will be the opportunity to plan and take part in a celebration. It will be essential to involve the children in the choice of material to be used in the celebration.

Consider how the children will begin the celebration.

WORD – LISTEN

To some scripture read or enacted

RESPONSE

How will the children respond to all they have heard?

GOING FORTH

How will the children take away the message?

Renew the teacher helps each child to make an individual response, to hold on to and make

their own, what they have understood of the topic. In this part the children will think about how

they can apply their learning to their lives. Older children can be offered the opportunity to write or draw in their personal notebooks.

There is a reminder that the teacher will undertake an evaluation which will inform future teaching and learning and include assessment for learning.

RESPOND will take one week of Religious Education time to complete.



During the school year we will also study two world religions One will be Judaism and the other one from a choice of Sikhism, Buddhism, Islam and Hinduism on a rolling programme.

We also have a programme of visits to other places of worship where children can consolidate what they have learned.

We live in a pluralistic country with people of different races, cultures and religions.

Within our school we are seeking to educate all pupils of whatever religion to be able to live a way of life that integrates their beliefs with all other aspects of what it means to be human. As part of this, they must learn to live alongside others who are different and hold alternative views, including religious views.

Children today live in a fast changing global world, where communication and travel opens them to diversity and challenge.

It is important that we prepare them for this.

Pupils are encouraged not simply to learn facts about other religions but also to reflect upon them and gain insights from them.

The teaching of other religions for primary aged children is about how the members of that faith community live as a family and how they worship. It begins from the faith community's own understanding of itself and what it is to be a member of a particular community.

Each religion is taught separately in order to avoid confusion. Comparison can lead to inaccurate teaching and does not do justice to the integrity of each religion. Comparisons may be noted by the pupils, but that will not be the starting point of the teaching.

Teaching of Judaism needs special attention because of the intrinsic relationships between Judaism and Christianity – our very roots lie in Judaism. However, while it is important to teach about Jesus' Jewish background this should be taught separately from modern Judaism as a world faith.

When children handle ritual objects, which are important to people of other religions, they are taught do so with reverence and respect.

We visit places of worship on a rolling programme so that children can also learn about religions from members of that religion.

Each topic has an overview page with some background information for the teacher, a description of the process of the teaching of that religion and a list of possible resources and key words. If teachers wish to assess this work the Levels of Attainment will be applicable.

- LOOK: a very short introduction to the topic, starting with the children's own familiar experience. This is not a whole session but the opening part of the first session.
- DISCOVER: is the main section of teaching and learning about this religion and includes a range of activities which might include a visit to a place of worship, or a video.
- RESPECT: is the plenary when children are given the opportunity to reflect on what they have learnt, appreciate and respect and evaluate what it means for the followers of that religion.

Let Us Pray

To enable children to plan their own collective worship each class uses a resource called Let Us Pray.

Each class has a small box and this contains three packs of cards which are labelled:

Gather
Word
Response to the Word
Mission
and a Planning Grid.

The children decide how they would like to gather, which passage from the Bible to read, how they will reflect on the Word and how they will live out the message of what they have shared.

The cards give them a selection to choose from. The children then lead their class through this act of collective worship.

The children and the other participants are given time to reflect on their liturgy when they have finished.

Class Prayer Journals

This private book is for children to write down their prayerful thoughts and reflections. They can share these with others or not as they wish.

Chaplaincy Team - Little Lights

At English Martyrs we have a pupil chaplaincy team which is led by Mrs Jones.

These children have been selected by adults who know them to lead the rest of the school in school and class collective worship.

Our chaplaincy team also help to run lunch time prayer meetings with their peers and provide the pupil voice in decisions about the direction the school is going in terms of our lives as a Catholic community.



Statements to Live By

This is a programme which aims:

To promote a positive and caring Christian ethos that is understood and communicated to everyone within the community, child and adult, and one that helps deepen the quality of education and truly helps to nurture human wholeness.

It helps to promote emotional literacy, personal, social and health education, and contributes towards community cohesion and the common good.

The statements are a set of 36 statements in poster form which are displayed each week in all our classes. The same statement is displayed in each class from EYFS to Year 6 as well as in our entrance hall.

We as a community then try to live out the statement during that week. The statement is discussed as a class on a Monday and ways of living it out discussed. The statement is referred to and used as part of our class liturgy.

Daily Prayer

Children pray 4 times a day as part of their class. Details of all the prayers can be found in the prayer booklet for parents on the school website.

Charity / Community Mission

As a school the children are encouraged to give to others both locally and globally. We have supported charities locally for example the food bank, nationally with Shelter, NSPCC and Air Ambulance and globally with Mary's Meals, CAFOD and a project based in Malawi. The children take ownership of the fundraising and plan events during the year.

Visitors from the charities are encouraged into school.