Religious Education at English Martyrs' RC Primary School

School Mission Statement

At English Martyrs' RC Primary School, rooted in the teachings of scripture and inspired by Christ's love, we strive to create a nurturing and inclusive community where every child is recognised as a unique gift from God. We work in close partnership with parents, acknowledging them as the first educators of their children, to support each child's spiritual, moral, and academic development. We foster a welcoming and safe environment where children are encouraged to grow in faith, show kindness, and develop respect for others, while embracing the richness of diverse cultures within our school community. Guided by our shared values and our motto, we aim to help our pupils become confident, caring individuals who live with integrity and bring light to the world.

Stand firm. Show kindness. Seek excellence. Ubi Caritas

Intent

At English Martyrs', we believe that it is important for all our pupils to learn about the Catholic faith so that they can deeper their understanding and relationship with God. Other religions are taught so that our pupils gain knowledge and understanding of the world around them, develop respect and tolerance for others. The RE policy is clear and our Mission Statement and School Values encompass our beliefs, which filter into all aspects of teaching/learning and ensuring that children are aware of their rights and responsibilities, as UK citizens.

Curriculum leaders show understanding of important concepts related to curriculum design, such as: knowledge progression and sequencing of events. Our curriculum coverage allows all learners to access the content, make progress through the curriculum and designed to encourage creativity, imagination, enquiry, debate, discussion and independence.

Pupils develop both substantive knowledge (such as scripture, liturgy, sacraments and Church teachings) and disciplinary knowledge (how to reflect, interpret, analyse and respond to faith and belief).

As teachers, the aim to provide high quality teaching, developing the appropriate subject specific knowledge, skills and understanding, and a well-resourced rich environment so that pupils can learn effectively, fulfil their potential and bring about outstanding outcomes. For example, students progressing from knowledge and understanding to evaluation and analysis. We encourage our pupils to ask deep

reflecting questions about the world and to reflect on their own beliefs, values and experiences.

We also aim to develop pupils' cultural capital through learning about a wide range of religious traditions, beliefs and practices, including those from diverse cultures and communities, enabling pupils to understand their place in a global and faith-filled world.

Implementation

We follow the diocesan-approved *Lighting the Path* programme across the whole school, from Reception to Year 6. Developed to support the delivery of the Catholic Religious Education Directory (RED), the programme provides a coherent, progressive and knowledge-rich curriculum that enables pupils to grow in their understanding of scripture, Catholic beliefs, traditions and practices. Through carefully sequenced units, pupils encounter the Word of God, explore the teachings of the Church and deepen their understanding of their relationship with God and others.

Lighting the Path supports the development of both substantive knowledge, including scripture, liturgy, sacraments and Church teaching, and disciplinary knowledge, enabling pupils to question, interpret, reflect, analyse and respond to matters of faith. Learning builds progressively from early experiences of storytelling, prayer, wonder and reflection in the Early Years to increasingly sophisticated theological thinking, discussion and personal response throughout Key Stages 1 and 2. The programme ensures consistency, progression and continuity in Religious Education across all year groups.

Across the curriculum, pupils develop the knowledge, skills, and attitudes needed to respond thoughtfully and freely to God's call in their everyday lives.

RE is given at least 10% of teaching time. All lessons are well planned, resourced and engaging. Learning is based in a positive atmosphere, with pupils who are sensitive and responsive to others. From an early age, pupils are expected to show respect and to take responsibility for their own actions. RE lessons are enjoyed and celebrated.

Key vocabulary is explicitly taught and revisited, enabling pupils to confidently use religious language such as Gospel, sacrament, parable and discipleship.

Our pupils have a sense of identity and take pride in developing the Catholic Life of the school. Subject leaders at all levels have clear roles and responsibilities to carry out their role in curriculum design and delivery. They expertise and practical skill to design and implement a curriculum. Leaders at all levels, including, governors regularly review and quality assure the subject to ensure that it is implemented sufficiently well. Leaders ensure that ongoing CPD is available for staff to ensure that curriculum requirements are met.

Curriculum resources selected to serve the schools curricular intentions and the course of study and enable effective curriculum implementation. The way the curriculum is planned meets pupils learning needs. Learning is carefully sequenced so that pupils build knowledge and understanding over time.

All religions and their communities are treated with respect and sensitivity and we value the links, which are, and can be made between home, school, and a faith community. We acknowledge that each religion studied can contribute to the education of all our pupils. Teaching reflects a diverse range of cultures, backgrounds and beliefs, promoting respect and inclusion. We promote teaching in Religious Education that stresses open enquiry and first-hand experiences wherever possible for both staff and children.

Impact

The children at English Martyrs' RC Primary School enjoy learning about other religions. Through their RE learning, the children are able to make links between their own lives and those of others in their community and in the wider world, developing an understanding of other people's cultures and ways of life. The curriculum is successfully implemented to ensure pupils progression in knowledge. Pupils successfully learn the curriculum, which provides parity for all pupils at English Martyrs'.