



# Religious Education Policy 2023

*Through Christ we believe, inspire, achieve.*

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### 1. Curriculum Intent

As a Catholic School, English Martyrs is committed to the Catholic faith, recognising and valuing every individual as special and unique in the image and likeness of God. Throughout the school community we live out our school mission daily, through Christ to believe, inspire and achieve.

As a Catholic school, we teach the children to understand the Catholic faith and traditions. We share this responsibility with parents, the first educators of their children and with the parish where the children and their families worship. Each child is encouraged to develop and promote an understanding and care for the environment and to live out the Catholic faith in society.

### 2. Religious Education and the Programme of Study

Religious Education is central to the curriculum at English Martyrs Catholic Primary School. To fulfil the above aims and to address the four areas of study outlined in the Curriculum Directory for catholic schools – Revelation, Church, Celebration and Life in Christ - the Come and See programme is used as recommended by the Archdiocese of Liverpool.

### 3. Pupil Experiences

Each topic follows the Explore, Reveal, Respond process. In Explore the children discuss similar issues in situations of which they have experience. In Reveal the children are introduced to the new knowledge in the unit. While in Respond they engage with the new knowledge and reflect on what it means to them and to their lives and actions as Christians. Each unit ends with a celebration of their new knowledge which contributes to their appreciation of the love God has for them.

### 4. Rationale

*"Catholics believe that R.E. is not one subject among many but the foundation of the entire education process. The beliefs and values it communicates should inspire and unify every aspect of school life."* (Bishops Conference of England and Wales)

We recognise that the outcome of Religious Education is religiously literate and engaged young people who have the knowledge, understanding and skills – appropriate to their age and capacity – to reflect spiritually, and think ethically and theologically, and who are aware of the demands of religious commitment in everyday life.

## **5. Equal Opportunities**

At English Martyrs Catholic Primary School, we aim to give all our children irrespective of age, background, or ability equal access to learning opportunities. For Religious Education, this means equal opportunity to reflect on their life experiences and to understand their own and other people's responses to those experiences in the context of religious belief and practice.

There are a wide variety of activities through which children can convey their responses and new knowledge and understanding can be gained. In considering teaching approaches, it is important to bear in mind the diverse ways in which children might prefer to make responses, depending on their particular strengths and abilities: verbal response, written response, drawing, acting, participation, singing. All work is valued. We are aware of children's various cultural, social, and ethnic backgrounds and are sensitive in our approach and the use of materials.

## **6. Monitoring arrangements**

Recording in Religious Education recognises the distinct nature of the subject. At English Martyrs recording takes place in various forms, in pupil workbooks (Y1 – Y6), photographs, digital media, display, record of achievement and end of year reports.

Staff at English Martyrs are encouraged to:

- Be selective because not all evidence is suitable for recording or is able to be recorded.
- Record in a variety of ways.
- Demonstrate differentiation where appropriate so that all children can reach their full potential.
- Be positive in order to record what pupils have done and can achieve.

Photographic evidence can be found on the school twitter account.

## **7. Cross Curricular Links**

As a Catholic school, at English Martyrs Primary School we value Christ at the centre of everything we do. Religious Education is the core of our entire educational process. The learning: beliefs, inspiration and achievements in Come and See, permeate every aspect of the life of the school, as we seek to live out our school mission statement daily, through Christ, for ourselves and with others.

## **8. Resources**

Our best resources are the members of staff who are responsible for the R.E. of the children in their care. Parents, the parish priest, catechists and members of the local community are a valuable resource and their involvement is encouraged and greatly appreciated. The main written resources are: Come and See, God's Story and Church's Story. An extensive list of resources can be found in the RE Handbook.

## **9. Health and Safety**

Staff will refer to current Health and Safety practices, safety regulations and safeguarding requirements.

## **10. Monitoring of the Religious Education Policy**

The Religious Education policy will be monitored by the RE coordinators and Senior Leaders. A calendar of monitoring events are scheduled to take place throughout the year. This policy will be reviewed by the Headteacher and approved by the governing body.

## **11. Evaluation of Policy**

Termly monitoring of Religious Education throughout the school by RE coordinators and Senior Leaders.