

Document Control			
Policy Name	Religious Education	Date Approved	19 <sup>th</sup> July 2017
Status	Approved by Board	Review Date	Summer 2019
Committee	Pupil Achievement	Version Number	2.0

## Religious Education Policy English Martyrs Catholic Primary School

*“Working together to provide the very best in Catholic Education”*

*“There is a variety of gifts but the same Spirit gives them. There are different ways of serving but the same Lord is served. There are different abilities to perform service, but the same God who gives ability to all for their particular service. The Spirit’s presence is shown in some way in each person for the good of all.”*      1 Corinthians 12: 4 - 7

Our Mission is to build a community based on the love of Jesus in which everyone can flourish spiritually, morally and academically.

### Aims and objectives

Through religious education children are encouraged to:

- investigate and reflect on some fundamental questions;
- develop their knowledge and understanding of the Catholic Faith as well as the other major world faiths;
- develop an awareness of spiritual and moral issues in life experiences;
- develop an understanding of what it means to be committed to a religious tradition;
- be able to reflect on their own experiences and to develop a personal response to the fundamental questions of life;
- develop investigative and research skills and to form reasoned judgements about religious issues;
- have respect for other peoples’ views and to celebrate the diversity in society.

### Statutory Requirements

In accordance with the Education Reform Act, all children are entitled to, and will receive Religious Education.

Our school curriculum for religious education meets the requirements of the 1988 Education Reform Act (ERA). The ERA stipulates that religious education is compulsory for all children, including those in the Foundation Stage class who are less than five years old. The ERA allows parents to withdraw their child from religious education classes if they so wish, although this should only be done once the parents have given written notice to the school governors. Religious education forms an important part of our school’s spiritual, moral and social teaching. It also promotes education for citizenship.

### Time allocation

In line with the requirements of the Bishops of England and Wales 10% of teaching time will be spent specifically on R.E.

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### **Preparation for the Sacraments**

The school supports the parish in preparing pupils to receive the Sacraments of Reconciliation and the Eucharist.

### **Special feast days**

Our patronal feast day of The English Martyrs is special day of celebration. The national Saint's days of England, Ireland, Scotland and Wales are observed. Our School houses remember particular Martyrs and children are encouraged to know something of their house patron.

### **Teaching and learning**

Through the Diocesan scheme God Matters, children explore various religious traditions including multi-faith beliefs and traditions. A broad range of teaching activities are provided to expand the children's ability to think more deeply about the topic and to encourage them to form and express their own opinions.

Teaching and learning in RE follows the engage, explore, express model whereby the children build on their skills as they progress through the school. At the engage level, children meet the topic for the first time. Through the explore phase, they learn stories and traditions related to both the catholic faith and other faiths. At the express level, the children show their understanding of the topic and are encouraged to apply their learning to their own life situations.

By following the liturgical year, children are given the opportunity to mark major religious festivals in both the catholic traditions and those of other faiths.

### **Curriculum planning in religious education**

The Diocesan RE programme God Matters, is followed throughout the school. It provides a detailed planning framework thus ensuring continuity and progression throughout the school.

Background theology and Catholic content is provided in each topic to support teachers.

The whole school follows the appropriate topic at the right level.

The RE subject manager reviews plans on a regular basis.

### **Cross curricular nature of RE**

#### **English**

Children's literacy skills contribute significantly to the RE teaching. A range of media such as postcards, letters, newspaper articles and interviewing techniques are used to explore religious topics within God Matters.

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### **Art**

Religious art encourages visual learners to access the RE curriculum. Art is used to express understanding of the RE topic when appropriate.

### **Information and communication technology (ICT)**

ICT is used to research topics when accessible. It is used widely to introduce lessons and involve the visual learners.

### **Personal, social and health education (PSHE) and citizenship**

Through our religious education lessons, we teach the children about the values and moral beliefs that underpin individual choices of behaviour. Children are encouraged to think of their Mission Statement in treating others in the way they would like to be treated. We also promote the values and attitudes required for citizenship in a democracy by teaching respect for others and the need for personal responsibility. The school council enables the children to put these attitudes into practise. In general, by promoting tolerance and understanding of other people, children are enabled to appreciate what it means to be positive members of our multi-cultural society.

### **Spiritual, moral, social and cultural development**

Through teaching religious education in our school, opportunities are provided for spiritual development. Children consider and respond to questions concerning the meaning and purpose of life. We help them to recognise the difference between right and wrong through the study of moral and ethical questions. Through exploring issues of religious faith and values children develop a sense of their own identity within a diverse society

### **Home / School / Parish links**

Members of the parish are invited to join in celebrating special times in the life of the school. Mass is celebrated in school on Holy Days and at least once a year we join the parish community for Mass.

The school webpage has links to the parish and local school cluster.

Parents are invited to join class worship on a regular basis. Our harvest produce is shared with the local community. Children are encouraged to participate in charitable events to support the mission of the wider church.

### **Assessment and recording**

We assess children's work in religious education by making informal judgements as we observe them during lessons. Assessment for Learning techniques are used within RE lessons to assess children's learning. Completed work is marked according to the learning outcome and, where possible, future targets are given.

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Assessment criteria are under development to accompany the Diocesan scheme of work. The school will take these on board as they are completed. The RE manager will then keep a record of assessments made and examples of children's work.

### **Monitoring and review**

The Head teacher, in conjunction with the RE subject manager, monitors the standards of the children's work and the quality of the teaching and learning in religious education. The RE subject manager is responsible for supporting colleagues in the teaching of religious education, for being informed about current developments in the subject, and for providing a strategic lead and direction for the subject in the school.

The Head teacher, RE subject manager and the RE governor form a committee to maintain the RE self-review documentation. One section is visited each term ensuring that the whole document is reviewed annually. Overall responsibility for ensuring this rests with the Head teacher.

### **Equality of Opportunity**

In light of the 2010 Equality Act, this policy has been written with due consideration to its potential impact (both positive and negative) on the many diverse groups of adults and children within the school. The school has ensured that to the best of its knowledge, the statements and procedures set out in this policy do not discriminate unjustly against any such groups or individuals.

Approved by governing body on 19<sup>th</sup> July 2017

Signed by: ..... Chair of Governors

Review: 2 years