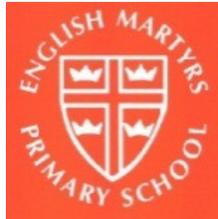


ENGLISH MARTYRS CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

'A Learning Community in Christ'



CURRICULUM POLICY

Our Curriculum

Here at English Martyrs our Core Learning Values reflect the 'Quality First Teaching' in our school:

- Creativity
- Collaboration
- Independence.

These 3 core values prepare our children to be successful both within their learning and within our modern day society.

The new curriculum that we chose therefore had to reflect our principles of learning. With the new National Curriculum being introduced by the Government this year (2014-15) we have been working hard to refresh our school approach and provision for pupils. As part of this work we have decided to implement the new Cornerstones Curriculum, a nationally recognised approach for delivering outstanding learning opportunities for children.

What is the Cornerstones Curriculum?

The Cornerstones Curriculum is a creative and thematic approach to learning that is mapped to the new 2014 Primary National Curriculum to ensure comprehensive coverage of national expectations. Our new curriculum will be delivered through Imaginative Learning Projects (ILPs) or topics. These will provide a rich menu of

exciting and motivating learning activities that make creative links between all aspects of our children's learning.

We believe children learn better when they are encouraged to use their imagination and apply their learning to engaging contexts. Our new curriculum will provide lots of learning challenges throughout the academic year that will require children to solve problems, apply themselves creatively and express their knowledge and understanding effectively across the curriculum.

As well as using the Cornerstones Curriculum we will, as a Catholic School, continue to use the Come and See scheme of work for the teaching of Religious Education. We will also be using the Abacus scheme of work to support children's learning in Mathematics. Other areas of children's learning that will continue to be taught discretely include phonics (Read, Write Inc); spelling, punctuation and grammar (SPAG); and reading.

Cornerstones also provide a rigorous essential skills framework that outlines the end of year expectations in all subjects. These essential skills are tied to activities and are age related so that staff can track children's progress and identify their individual learning needs. This framework will be used alongside a new assessment tracking system called 'Target Tracker'. Target Tracker uses the new stages in the National Curriculum to ensure that children are given work at an appropriate level to both challenge and support their learning.

How it Works?

The Cornerstones Curriculum features more than 70 Imaginative Learning Projects covering children's learning from the Early Years Foundation Stage through to Year Six (in Early Years we will continue to use our current curriculum.) Teachers are able to select the topics that will best meet the needs of, challenge and engage the children in their year group. Careful consideration is given to children's prior learning, to the particular interests of the class and to making sure that all children have access to a broad and balanced curriculum that will not only motivate them but will also inspire them to achieve their very best.

Each project is split into sections, which see children progress through four stages of learning: Engage, Develop, Innovate and Express.

Engage

At the 'Engage' stage, children:

- Gain memorable first-hand experiences, such as going on a visit or inviting a special visitor into school
- Enjoy 'WOW' experiences
- Get an exciting introduction to a topic or theme
- Begin researching and setting enquiry questions

- Get lots of opportunities to make observations
- Develop spoken language skills
- Take part in sensory activities
- Have lots of fun to fully 'engage' with their new topic.

Develop

At the 'Develop' stage, children:

- Improve their knowledge and understanding of the topic
- Develop and practice their new skills
- Compose, make, do, build, investigate, explore, write for different purposes and read across the curriculum
- Research their own questions and those set by others
- Follow new pathways of enquiry based on their interests
- Complete homework activities that support their learning.

Innovate

At the 'Innovate' stage, children:

- Apply skills, knowledge and understanding in real life contexts
- Solve real or imagined problems using everything they have learnt
- Get inspired by imaginative and creative opportunities
- Revisit anything not fully grasped at the 'Develop' stage.

Express

At the 'Express' stage, children:

- Become the performers, experts and informers
- Share their achievements with parents, classmates and the community
- Evaluate finished products and processes
- Link what they have learnt to where they started
- Celebrate their achievements.

How it Works

Children will progress through four stage of learning in each ILP – Engage, Develop, Innovate and Express. To find out more about these stages please click on the link through to Cornerstones website:

<http://www.cornerstoneseducation.co.uk/Learning-Philosophy.aspx>

To see an overview of the topics chosen for each year group please look at the Whole School Curriculum Overview the current academic year which can be found on the school website (About us , then Curriculum). There are also individual overviews for each year group, which set out the topics and RE themes for the year.

Following our meeting with parents in the Autumn 2014 term (see the PowerPoint 'Curriculum and Assessment presentation 2014' in the curriculum section), we will be developing key skills booklets for each year group to support parental understanding of the coverage in each year group.

Reviewed April 2015

Next Review Date April 2017