

## Curriculum Statement September 2017

St Martin's Catholic Primary School's Mission is to deliver this statement:

***The Governors and Staff, in partnership with the Parents, aim to help each child realise their full Spiritual, Moral, Academic and Social Potential in a happy, caring, Catholic Community in which each member feels valued***

September 2014 saw the introduction of a new national curriculum. We have invested a great deal of time and energy to ensure that our curriculum is unique to St Martin's in that it is specifically tailored towards the needs and interests of the children. Through the curriculum, we aim to prepare pupils for the opportunities, experiences and responsibilities of adult life and to lay a firm foundation for future learning. We seek to provide a broad, balanced differentiated curriculum and offer a wide range of exciting, challenging activities and experiences to all pupils irrespective of ability, background, ethnic origin or gender.

We acknowledge that people learn in many different ways and we recognise the need to develop strategies that allow all children to learn in ways that suit them. Opportunities are planned to cater for a range of different learning styles to ensure that all children can access the curriculum and learn in a way that is best for them.

### **Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS)**

In the Foundation Stage, a variety of structured play and practical activities are planned to help children develop in the following three prime areas of learning:

Personal, Social and Emotional Development

Communication and Language

Physical Development

The framework can be found here [Early Years Foundation Stage \(EYFS\) – Schools](#). We teach this framework through topics that excite the children; we gather their ideas through mind-mapping and plan according to their needs and interests.

### **Key Stage 1 and 2**

At Key Stage 1 and 2, children have a daily Literacy and Mathematics lesson.

As a school, we recognise the importance of reading for all children and therefore, have a comprehensive and thorough approach to the teaching of reading across the school including, daily phonics lessons in KS1. Writing is taught right across the curriculum, in order to provide purpose and audience for the children. Grammatical accuracy is embedded in the teaching of writing but also as a discrete element of the Literacy curriculum.

The new Mathematics curriculum aims to ensure that all pupils become fluent in the fundamental of Mathematics including the ability to recall and apply knowledge rapidly and accurately. Children at St Martin's are taught to reason mathematically, solve problems and apply their mathematical skills in a variety of real life contexts.

In addition to Literacy and Mathematics, children are taught to develop their skills, understanding and creativity in Science, Computing, History, Geography, Design Technology, Music, Art, Physical Education and Religious Education. We use the Diocesan agreed policy, The Way, the Truth and the Life. Additionally, French is taught from Year 3 onwards. Children in Key Stage 2 have additional music lessons in which they are taught how to play a variety of musical instruments including brass, violin, guitar and African drumming.

PSHCE (Personal, Social, Health and Citizenship Education) forms an integral part of the curriculum at St Martin's. It helps to give pupils the knowledge, skills and understanding they need to lead confident, healthy, independent lives and to become informed, active, responsible citizens. All members of staff are committed to encouraging in the children knowledge of right and wrong and to take responsibility for their own behaviour. This links clearly with our Catholic ethos and our desire for all children to be emotionally literate.

Children are taught about the community in which they live and are encouraged to work in co-operation with other members of the school community. Supporting charities, both local and further afield, is encouraged. All children are expected to undertake appropriate responsibilities within the class and school, e.g. caring for the classroom environment, participating in class assemblies and participating in out of school activities.

We aim to develop children's enjoyment, confidence and skill in physical activity and introduce them to the pleasures of sport to help develop active children who benefit from a healthy lifestyle. Through a multi-skills approach, children develop their skills in football, netball, hockey and cricket, as well as athletics, gymnastics, dance and swimming.

We enhance and enrich the curriculum through a variety of activities including residential visits throughout Key Stage 2, educational visits, school performances, visitors to school, after school clubs and great links with local High Schools.

St Martin's 2015 curriculum has been designed to meet the needs of all our children. Some topics are brought together, where possible, and taught in a cross-curricular way, to maximise the use of time but also to make experiences more meaningful and provide children with a real context for learning. The high quality of ICT equipment and software also means ICT is an integral part of many teaching and learning experiences.

### **Assemblies**

We build in opportunities to promote the spiritual, moral and cultural development of all our pupils, especially through our daily acts of Collective Worship and 'The Way, the Truth and the Life'. Throughout our assemblies, we promote healthy lifestyle, staying safe, being good citizens, etc.

## **Homework**

Homework is used to extend school learning and also encourages children as they get older to develop the confidence and self-discipline needed to study on their own. It provides opportunities for parents and pupils to work together and to enjoy learning experiences.

## **Extra-curricular clubs**

We are very proud of the wide range of extra-curricular clubs we are able to offer at St Martin's. These are run after school and are all well attended. Most clubs are run by our dedicated teachers and teaching assistants but we also have some clubs run by external coaches, for which there is sometimes a small fee.

Clubs which have been available in the last year have included:

*Choir, drama club, French, football, cross-country, cricket, film club*

Our choir perform at many school functions and local events and we participate annually in the Town Hall for the Mayor at Christmas time.

Our sports teams compete regularly against other schools and we have a high reputation for success in a wide range of activities.

## **Home-school links**

We firmly believe that the education of the children is a partnership between children, staff and parents. Support from home is vital in maximising children's chances of fulfilling their potential. In order to facilitate this partnership, we offer an open-door policy where parents are welcome to visit school to discuss their children's progress with staff at a mutually convenient time. Each class has two parents' meetings per year and reports are sent home at the end of the summer term.

In summary, our school curriculum aims to realise the full potential of each individual child and will be regularly reviewed.

*Updated September 2015; September 2016; September 2017*