

## Our Curriculum

As part of our aim to establish strong links between school, parents and pupils, this section includes information about the curriculum we teach at St. Edmund's.



Our curriculum has been designed around the requirements of the National Curriculum; the programmes of study being the basis for learning which we have adapted to meet the needs of our pupils. The National Curriculum sets out what pupils need to learn. We have used this to establish a plan to teach the content set out in the

programmes of study.

Our curriculum is rooted in our Catholic faith with R.E. at its core. It is really important to us that all of our pupils follow and have access to all subjects. A primary focus is to raise aspirations, engender a sense of personal pride in their achievements and provide a purpose and relevance for learning. We aim to deliver an inclusive and non-tokenistic curriculum which celebrates various cultures and diversities so that our children are equipped to become active and responsible citizens in the exciting world we live in. To help our children be the best they can possibly be, we need to make sure they are taught the essential knowledge and skills from our National Curriculum. This will give them confidence and aptitude to continue their learning at High School. Like you, we want our children to aim high and achieve high!

### Reading

Teaching children to read is always our biggest priority and so this takes up a significant amount of time on the timetable. Teachers take every opportunity to immerse children in texts which will generate lots of discussion. It is really important that our children are taught all of the essential skills to help them **learn to read** so that they can **read to learn!**



Parents, you can play a significant role in helping to teach your child to read and we ask you to either hear your child read or share a book with them each night.

It's crucial that children learn to read for pleasure as well and we are delighted that our school library (the book den) is open for them to share and enjoy books with their friends. The more reading they do, the more vocabulary they will learn. Opening a book, opens up our imagination, opens up our opportunities and is a great past-time for enjoyment and relaxation.

## Our core curriculum

R.E. (Religion) English, Maths and Science are counted as 'core' subjects and they are taught every week.

## Foundation subjects

Subjects like History, Geography, Art & Design, Design Technology are taught in half termly topics. Teachers get together to plan the sequence of learning for each topic. Using the National Curriculum as the framework, topics are adapted to take into consideration current affairs, children's needs, their various learning styles as well as what experiences we can include to enhance their learning. At this planning stage, we establish **key vocabulary** that the children need to learn. We make sure that the books and texts we use are rich in vocabulary, modern and that our children can relate to. We think that the more vocabulary children can learn and understand, the stronger their knowledge will be. This is the case in every subject, not just English.



## Assessment for Learning

Following on from assessments and quizzes teachers do, they are mindful of important areas of the curriculum children might not have remembered or even missed out on and they will adapt their planning accordingly. This is particularly important because some key knowledge, skills, vocabulary and concepts are just so important, children would really struggle to understand the next part of their learning journey.

Teachers work together with subject leaders to map out links between the topics we teach. They look at what the critical content in each subject is and adapt their plans to enable them to support children over their time with us. We will continue to ensure we provide a curriculum which is broad and balanced. When planning, teachers ensure that there is a range of creative activities so that all types of learners can be catered for. This can be seen on each year groups long term plans.



We want children to be fully engaged in their topics and we ask parents to get involved with the opportunities to learn at home. Teachers will send home a 'knowledge organiser' each half term before a new topic begins in Humanities and Science. This

means you can talk to your child about what they are going to learn next. There will be ideas for you to do some activities at home as well.



In other subjects like Music, Computing, P.E. & Modern Languages we adopt published schemes. The modern language our children learn is German and this is mainly taught by our specialist teacher, Frau Gee.

All children have two hours of P.E. a week as well as structured 'active time' each day with their teachers and children in years 5 and 6 also complete the daily mile! Staff in school are encouraging children to be more active as we all know the impact this has on our mental health and overall well-being. Is this something parents can help with at home? Do your children attend clubs or can you get them out to the park?

We've opened up our after-school clubs to all children in Years 1-6 this year so how about signing up for this and make a 'Change4life'!

Our teachers work with other professionals and are influenced by educational research so that we are the best teachers we can be for our children. For instance, this year we are working on how to help our children learn strategies on how to remember their learning and about their growth mindset.

We endeavour to fulfil the potential of every child academically, socially, morally, spiritually and culturally so that they are ready for the next stage in their lives. One area which will be of particular importance this year is Relationships, Sex and Health Education. We are learning how to be a 'nurturing school' so that we can help them look after their own mental health and well-being, their physical health and fitness as well as helping them to build safe and respectful relationships with others. Parents will understand why we continue to teach children how to stay safe online in our computing and PSHE lessons.



Any questions you have about our curriculum can be addressed by either your child's class teacher or by contacting Mrs Kennedy, our Curriculum leader.

Parents can click on the links on our website to find out more about each subject.

### Our Early Years Curriculum

At our school, we teach the statutory Early Years framework. We place a strong emphasis on early language and communication development. This means we take time to encourage lots of speaking and listening and teach the vocabulary children need. We find that our children need lots of help to hear the initial sounds in words so we help them to listen and talk about the sounds we hear and see in our environment. It is really important that we give our children a good foundation for hearing sounds as this will help them to learn to read. So please have lots of conversations with your child about what is going on in and around their environment. It's good to talk! To teach early reading we use 'Read/Write Inc' which is a really successful phonics programme. Some of our Reception and Year 1 children will receive some additional support with their language development through our programme, NELI. If you would like to know more about our Early Years curriculum or early reading, your child's class teacher will be able to help you. Alternatively, you

can make an appointment to speak to Miss Byrne, our Early Years leader or Mrs Betney, our Reading leader.

### Formal Assessments

We know that parents are very keen to know how well your child is getting on at school. Assessment has to serve a purpose and teachers are continually assessing the children in all types of ways so they can help them progress with their learning. In every lesson teachers are questioning and discussing with pupils to find out what they do or do not know so that we can give extra support. We have weekly spelling and mental maths tests. We have very focused tests (the children know them as quizzes) at the end of topics so we can find out who has remembered what. This really helps the teachers find out what the children have remembered from their lessons. It helps teachers make decisions about what to teach next.



We also have the more formal tests, particularly for Reading, Writing and Maths because it is important we find out how well the children are doing overall. If a child isn't making progress in these subjects, they may need extra support from us. If you have any questions about our assessments or your child's progress in school, you can either speak to your child's class teacher or contact Mr Usher, our Assessment leader.



### Extra support

Sometimes during their time at school, some children need extra support in certain subjects. It might be that they just need a boost in Maths or extra help with reading. This is because children learn at different paces and in fits and bursts. It isn't anything to worry about and it is good that we can provide them with extra help when needed. At our school, we use our teaching assistants in class to provide extra support to the children who need it. They also do some extra intervention work as well and this is really targeted at certain concepts that are essential for a child to make progress. For example, in English, if a child is struggling with their sounds and spellings after Year 2, they will get additional help in Year 3. In Maths, if a child hasn't grasped basic addition and subtraction, they won't be able to learn about angles in triangles for example. Parents, if you are concerned about your child's learning and progress and think they may benefit from some extra support, you can either speak to your child's class teacher or Mrs Shaw, our SENDCo.



## Safeguarding and well-being

**Safeguarding  
is everyone's  
responsibility**

lots of help to any and well-being. If you have any concerns about your child or in fact another child, please do not hesitate to contact either your teacher or our Designated Safeguarding Lead, Mr Usher and he will be happy to talk through any concerns you may have.

## Personal Development

This is a real strength of our school and we do lots of extra-curricular activities, educational visits, have leadership & team work opportunities, charity & community work, our weekly worship as well our celebration assemblies. We have a relatively new PSHE (Personal Social Health Education) curriculum called, 'Jigsaw' and our children are really enjoying their lessons. This is supported by our SMSC (Spiritual, Moral, Social &



Cultural) curriculum, underpinned by our weekly, 'statements to live by'. We know that our children love to respond to having responsibilities and there is much to celebrate each week. Our children learn how to live by our Gospel Values – a real challenge but we like to set expectations high. We are really proud of their behaviour and we celebrate this each week too in our celebration assemblies.



## How can I support my child with their learning?

You can be a massive support to your child. First and foremost, bring them to school everyday!! We can't teach them if they're not here! Next, we ask that you talk to your child about what they are learning in school and see if they can use any new vocabulary that is introduced to them in lessons. If they can tell you about what they have learned in class AND can express themselves using the appropriate language, this means they have probably remembered their learning. This is what we want! In addition, the biggest support you can be is to either hear them read OR share a story with them. Spend time talking about the book and your child will absolutely love spending this 1:1 time with you. Set aside 10-15 minutes each evening at a regular time and you will really see and enjoy the benefits. Furthermore, it would really help if you can support your child with their homework, particularly their weekly spelling list. We also send home 'knowledge organisers' each term. This gives you and your child the 'heads up' on what they will be learning next. It tells you about the new vocabulary they are going to learn, some research you can do as well as some activities you might like to try. Children in Years 1-6 also receive weekly English and Maths homework – it would be fantastic if you can make sure this gets done and sent back into school on

the right day. Finally, please make sure your child has a P.E. kit which they can keep in school, we wouldn't want any child missing out on vital exercise!

So...there are lots of things you can do to support your child. Please feel free to contact your child's class teacher on the school number if you have any questions we can help you with.

### An important message for our pupils

Please come to school each day and be an attendance HERO!

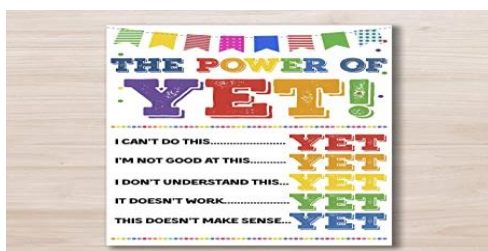
Every day at our school, the staff and governors are working to make sure that by the time you leave us:

- ✓ You will learn about your Catholic faith so that you can grow to love God and each other.
- ✓ You will understand how unique you are, recognise your own gifts and talents and use them confidently.
- ✓ You will enjoy reading, especially reading about your interests and the world you live in.
- ✓ You will understand that everyone is different and you will celebrate this diversity so that we are all equal.
- ✓ You will understand that we all learn in different ways and we can all help to nurture each other.
- ✓ You will love learning new things and find out how to remember what you've learnt.
- ✓ You will have lots of different learning experiences. We will give you as much variety as we can because we know this helps you remember. Plus, this makes your learning fun!
- ✓ You will want to make your world a happy place for everyone to live.
- ✓ You will understand the shared responsibility we have to look after God's world and encourage others to do so.
- ✓ You will feel part of a community and be proud of your school.



**If you ever have any worries or problems, you know you can talk to any member of staff. We are all here to listen to you.**

**We are proud to be Catholic Mancunians**



**#proud**

