



English Martyrs
Catholic Voluntary Academy





Welcome to English Martyrs Catholic Voluntary Academy. We are a small Voluntary Aided Catholic Academy with 154 children aged between 4 - 11 yrs old on roll. We are part of the St Thomas Aquinas Catholic Multi Academy Trust together with 19 other primary schools and four secondary schools across Leicester city and Leicestershire. We are happy to welcome all families to become part of our amazing school.



Head Teacher's Welcome



I am incredibly proud of all the children and staff at our school and we enjoy being part of an active and friendly community where parents and school work closely together. We provide a broad and balanced curriculum, setting high expectations and encouraging all our children to be the best they can be before leaving us in year 6.

As we are a small school we know all our children very well and provide the best provision for each one, nurturing them from early years through to year 6 where we prepare them for the next steps in their learning journey.

We hope that you will come to our school and see for yourself how fantastic it is!

Alison Chambers



Our mission as a school is:
'We grow and learn with
the gifts we have been
given, following in the
footsteps of
Jesus.'

Our vision is to nurture
resilient, confident and
responsible children, who
develop a
lifelong love of learning
with Christ at the centre of
all they do.

Mission and Values

We will achieve our mission and vision by:

➡ Creating memorable moments, friendships
and learning experiences that last a lifetime.

➡ Making sure that our school's Catholic
ethos reflects our mission to provide each child
and member of our school community with a safe,
happy and stimulating environment in which to
learn, thrive and flourish. To continue working
together with our Parish, parents, governors and
stakeholders to foster a love of God and His
Church through the teachings of Jesus Christ and
the Catholic Faith.

➡ By ensuring that our faith, attitudes and
values are transmitted through the curriculum and
are part of our daily lives.

➡ By delivering a curriculum that is relevant,
varied, interesting, stimulating, balanced and
appropriate to the children's needs.

➡ By encouraging enquiring minds and a love
of learning as well as exposing the children to
inspiring learning experiences to grow aspirations
for the future.

Our 10 virtues are embedded in all we do both
within school and beyond. They are linked to
positive learning attitudes and Gospel values. Our
virtues apply to everybody in the school community
and they inform the way we act, what we do and
how we achieve our goals. We have pride in making
a difference; we continually seek to improve; we
take responsibility for what we do; we value our
differences and respect ourselves and one another.

Our 10 virtues are:

Kindness

Love

Respect

Forgiveness

Patience

Resilience

Faith

Courage

Confidence

Love of Learning



Children across our school are encouraged to be active learners, problem solvers, team players and to develop both curiosity and creativity. Our curriculum is thought about carefully to ensure that all children have access to a broad and balanced provision with a wide range of subject areas being covered. Children enjoy a range of subjects and opportunities that recognise their talents and offers them the challenge that will ensure they make excellent progress. Children with Special Educational Needs are supported and encouraged to succeed with the support of class teachers and the School's SEND Coordinator.

All our children access outdoor learning throughout the year on our school site using our outdoor classroom, pond area and vegetable boxes as well as visiting a local forest school site. We teach maths using a maths mastery approach across the school and the children love learning how to write using our talk for writing toolkits. Chrome books and ipads enable the children to access learning in all areas of the curriculum and to follow the computing curriculum closely learning how to be safe online, programme and retrieve information.

'I like that the teachers make tricky learning easy and fun'

Rosa

Characteristics of Learning





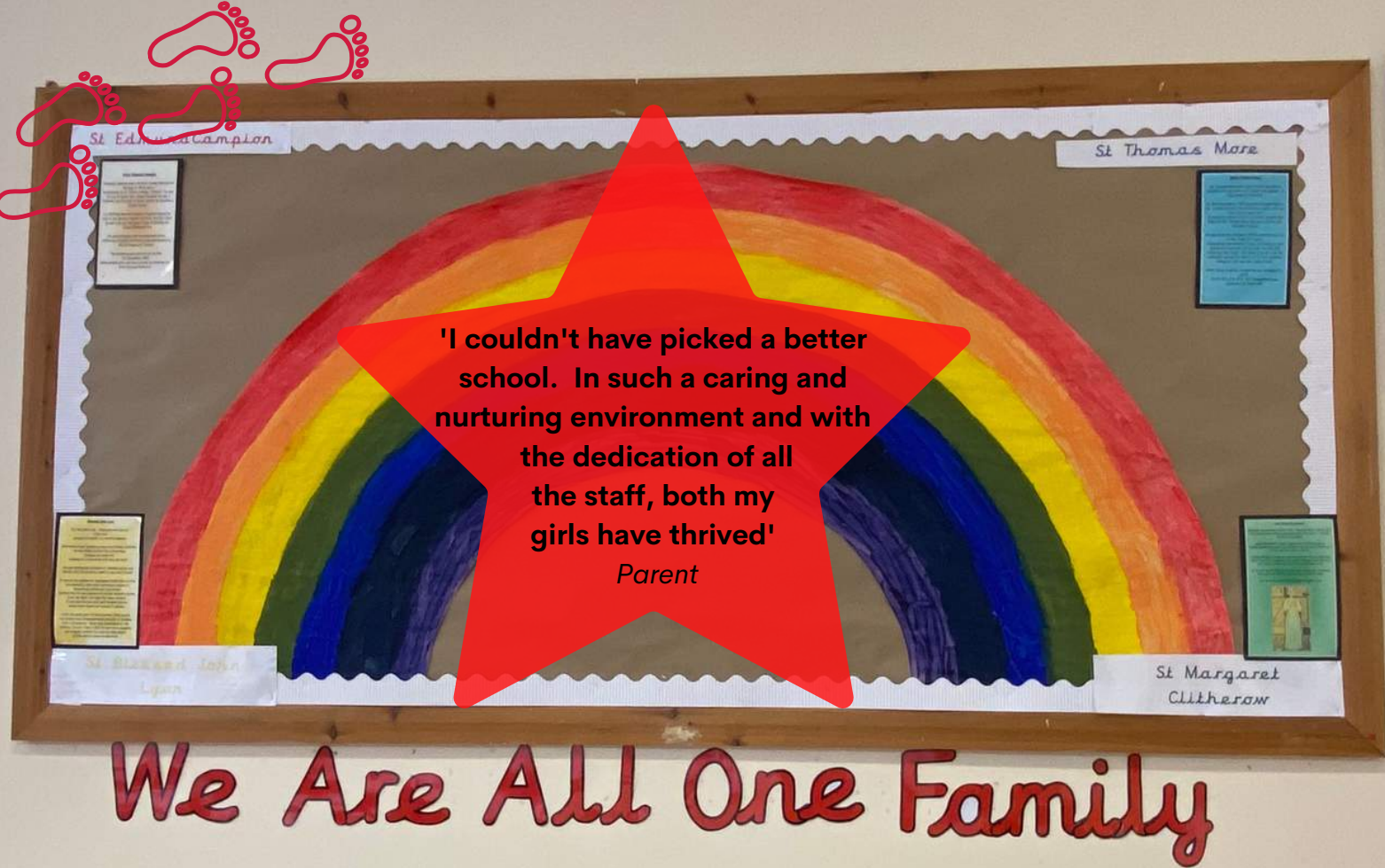
I love school because
I like learning new
things and reading
books'
Monty

Starting School



We have a new Early Years classroom which is set up to provide an amazing indoor and outdoor learning environment and supports delivery of the Early Years Foundation Stage Curriculum which the children begin in their nursery years. The children are taught by an experienced Early years team and the curriculum is personalised to include their own interests in their learning journeys. Parents work closely with the team to help support their child's learning and we track and assess progress using an online learning journey which parents can access too. We provide lots of relevant learning experiences beyond the classroom with visits out to our local area, forest school activities and visitors coming in to share experiences.

Transition between early years and year one is carefully planned and staff work very closely together to make sure that this impacts positively on their learning. Continuous provision started in early years continues into KS1 ensuring that the children are learning in the correct way developmentally.



A Typical Week



The children will arrive at school and are greeted by staff in the classroom with a morning task ready for them to complete. They will then start the day with collective worship or reflection time before starting Maths and English in the mornings. After lunch the children participate in a wide range of subjects including history, geography, art, DT, music, science RE, PSHE, PE and French! We have a celebration assembly every Friday which parents are invited to, we celebrate all the wonderful things we have been doing in the week with head teachers awards, birthday cards and house points. Each child is in one of our 4 houses and points are given for learning and our school values. There are lots of additional activities on offer after school for the children to participate in should they wish to.



Our on-site kitchen makes fresh meals each day for the children to enjoy. Fruit and milk is offered to pupils in EYFS and KS1 to enjoy as a nutritious snack.

Wraparound Provision – We offer both before and after school provision, our Breakfast Club starts at 7.45 am and children can enjoy a healthy breakfast. After School Club runs until 5.30pm and this includes activities and a light tea.



**'I love English Martyrs
because everyone is
there for each other and
we feel safe here'**

*Sofia,
Head Girl*



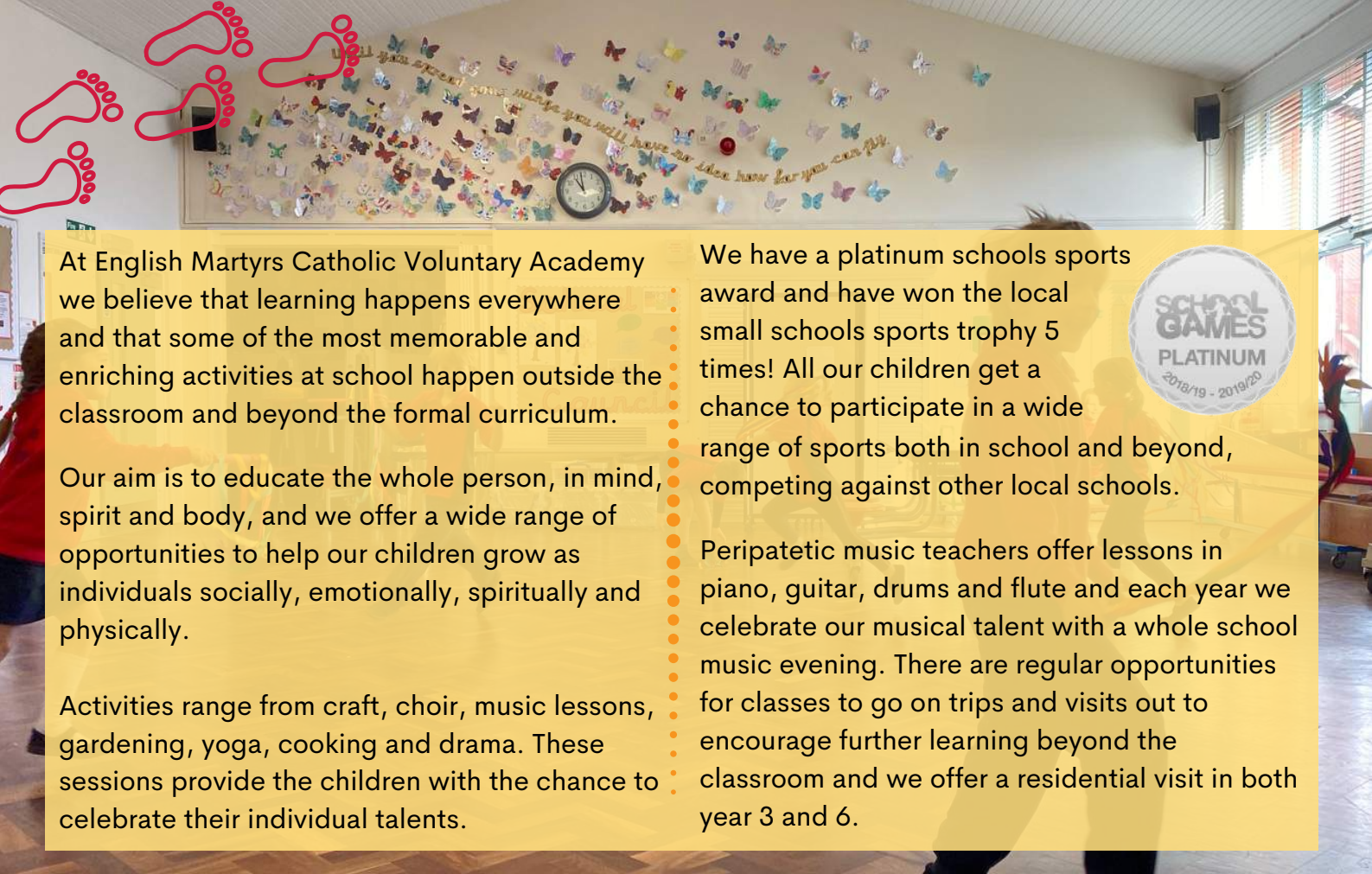
We're all in this together!



We have a strong family atmosphere in which our children reach out to our local community and environment. We also host many events, inviting our parish and local community into school and engage in lots of fundraising for local and international charities.

Pupils are encouraged to take on a number of leadership roles and responsibilities to ensure that they actively contribute to making our school the best it can be. We have a school council, house captains, head boy and girl, sports leaders, librarians, friendship finders, digital leaders and mini chaplains. These roles give the children the chance to shape their learning environment, and provide them with the opportunity to develop. Older pupils support our younger pupils at playtimes, as peer readers and in house and sporting events.





At English Martyrs Catholic Voluntary Academy we believe that learning happens everywhere and that some of the most memorable and enriching activities at school happen outside the classroom and beyond the formal curriculum.

Our aim is to educate the whole person, in mind, spirit and body, and we offer a wide range of opportunities to help our children grow as individuals socially, emotionally, spiritually and physically.

Activities range from craft, choir, music lessons, gardening, yoga, cooking and drama. These sessions provide the children with the chance to celebrate their individual talents.

We have a platinum schools sports award and have won the local small schools sports trophy 5 times! All our children get a chance to participate in a wide range of sports both in school and beyond, competing against other local schools.



Peripatetic music teachers offer lessons in piano, guitar, drums and flute and each year we celebrate our musical talent with a whole school music evening. There are regular opportunities for classes to go on trips and visits out to encourage further learning beyond the classroom and we offer a residential visit in both year 3 and 6.

When you spread your wings you will have no idea how far you can fly!





Building Resilience

We want all our children to thrive in an environment where they feel confident and safe. All staff undertake annual safeguarding training. Pupils take part in regular safety sessions such as road safety, online safety, first aid and bike ability. We offer weekly personal, social and emotional health age appropriate lessons as part of our curriculum. This ensures that our children leave primary school ready to be independent at secondary school – they can stay safe online, sort out friendship issues sensibly, have a good understanding of healthy relationships, walk to school and navigate roads safely.

We are accredited for Route to Resilience and think carefully about fostering positive learning attitudes as well as our values to enable them to build resilience. All staff have a mental health qualification and we have a qualified emotional, literacy support assistant (ELSA) in school to offer individual support in this area to children should they need it.





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