



English Martyrs
Catholic Voluntary Academy





Welcome to English Martyrs Catholic Voluntary Academy. We are a small Voluntary Aided Catholic Academy with 155 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 4 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 feel incredibly privileged to be the headteacher of English Martyrs Catholic Voluntary Academy in Oakham, part of the St Thomas Aquinas Catholic Multi-Academy Trust.

As a small school we have a strong family ethos and we welcome all children and families into our community. In our school there is deep respect for all, as every child and member of staff is valued. Children feel safe and secure and flourish both academically and personally with the support and encouragement of our dedicated and hardworking staff team.

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. We are fortunate to have beautiful grounds and have a focus on outdoor play and learning, including within our onsite forest school area.

We warmly welcome you to come and visit us to see for yourself and experience our wonderful school.

Gosia Brown
Executive Headteacher





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**



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

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.

Characteristics of Learning





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.

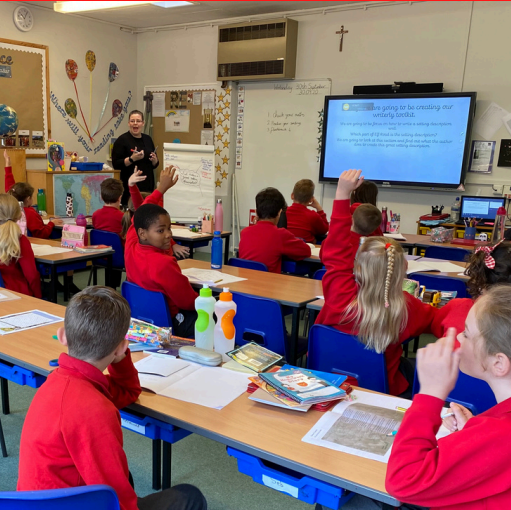
Transition between early years and year one is carefully planned and staff work very closely together to make sure that this impacts positively on their learning. Continuous provision started in early years continues into KS1 ensuring that the children are learning in the correct way developmentally.



'I couldn't have picked a better school. In such a caring and nurturing environment and with the dedication of all the staff, both my girls have thrived'
Parent

We Are All One Family

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 Latin! 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 5.45pm and this includes activities and a light tea.



'I love English Martyrs because the staff are friendly and encourage us to learn. We have ample opportunities to do sport and be creative. Everyone has a voice and we learn how to be good role models to the younger children.'

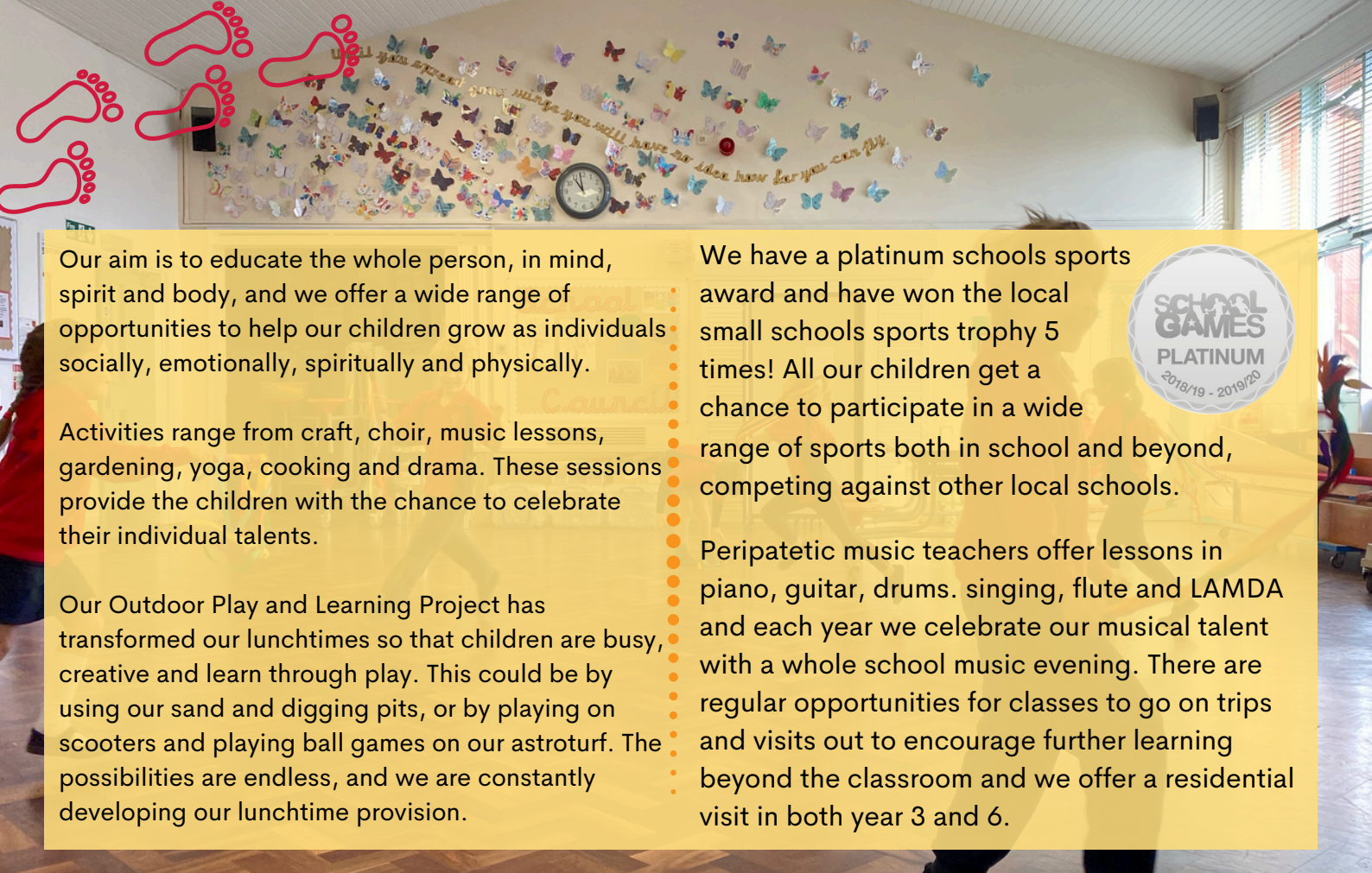
Alissa

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.



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.

Our Outdoor Play and Learning Project has transformed our lunchtimes so that children are busy, creative and learn through play. This could be by using our sand and digging pits, or by playing on scooters and playing ball games on our astroturf. The possibilities are endless, and we are constantly developing our lunchtime provision.

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, singing, flute and LAMDA 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!





Accredited School **R**
ROUTE TO RESILIENCE
 IN SCHOOL | AT HOME | FOR LIFE

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 two qualified emotional, literacy support assistants (ELSA) in school to offer individual support in this area to children should they need it.





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