



English Curriculum Intent

School Mission Statement

We come together as St. Joseph's family

To learn, share our faith and do our best to follow in the footsteps of Jesus.

Whole school Curriculum Intent

Our curriculum is inspired by the words of Oscar Romero, '*Aspire not to have more, but to be more*'. We aim to provide a Catholic Christian education, based on the life and teaching of Jesus Christ, in which the values of the Gospel underpin all aspects of school life. We will provide an environment in which the dignity of each person as a child of God is recognised and developed; and promote the full potential of each child through our curriculum which develops spiritual, academic, social and emotional growth.

In designing our curriculum, we have provided opportunities for our children which are underpinned by three curriculum drivers;

- Communication and Language
- Understanding of the World
- Independence in thought and action

We celebrate a 'knowledge-engaged' approach to learning, ensuring essential aspects of subject knowledge are learnt, alongside life-long learning skills to enable children to become resilient and independent learners for the future.

Subject Intent

At St Joseph's RC Voluntary Academy, we believe that our English curriculum is the gateway for learning across all curriculum subjects. In all lessons, and through a wide range of learning opportunities, pupils are given the chance to embed and extend their fluency and application of the strands that make up the English curriculum. The design of our English curriculum aims to develop the spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of all the pupils at St Joseph's as we explore, through literature, a child's developing understanding of our wider world. At St Joseph's, we aim to inspire an appreciation of our rich literacy heritage as well broadening the horizons of our pupils through discovering literature from a variety of cultures that we hope leads to a habit of reading widely and often. We seek to nurture a culture where children take pride in their writing and value this as a means of being able to express themselves and their creativity.

We encourage our pupils to progress through all the levels of our school home-reading scheme, which incorporates a range of text types and stories. At St Joseph's, we support children's natural curiosity and self-led initiative through encouraging them to have autonomy to choose texts that interest and challenge themselves as a reader. As a school, we recognise the importance of developing and broadening the vocabulary of all the pupils so they can interact with texts and in conversations with both confidence and fluency. We understand that a considerable amount of vocabulary is only encountered when reading and that new vocabulary needs to be introduced based around experiences and contexts that stimulate their thinking.

Our pupils are expected to speak politely, clearly and correctly; they are encouraged to convey their ideas fluently and confidently and to ask questions. At St Joseph's, we encourage our pupils to communicate through written and spoken language with an understanding of audience and purpose along with demonstrating both imagination and technical accuracy in the use of spelling, punctuation, grammar and choice of vocabulary. Through having competence and confidence when using and applying these English-based skills, our develop an ongoing love and thirst for learning, and an ability to grow as creative, independent and resilient individuals.

National Curriculum Aims for English

The overarching aim for English in the national curriculum is to promote high standards of language and literacy by equipping pupils with a strong command of the spoken and written word, and to develop their love of literature through widespread reading for enjoyment. The national curriculum for English aims to ensure that all pupils:

- read easily, fluently and with good understanding
- develop the habit of reading widely and often, for both pleasure and information
- acquire a wide vocabulary, an understanding of grammar and knowledge of linguistic conventions for reading, writing and spoken language
- appreciate our rich and varied literary heritage
- write clearly, accurately and coherently, adapting their language and style in and for a range of contexts, purposes and audiences
- use discussion in order to learn; they should be able to elaborate and explain clearly their understanding and ideas
- are competent in the arts of speaking and listening, making formal presentations, demonstrating to others and participating in debate.