



English Martyrs' Catholic Primary School

URN: 100824

Catholic Schools Inspectorate report on behalf of the Archbishop of Southwark

23 April 2026 – 24 April 2026

Summary of key findings

Overall effectiveness

The overall quality of Catholic education provided by the school

Catholic life and mission (p.3)

How faithfully the school responds to the call to live as a Catholic community at the service of the Church's educational mission

Religious education (p.5)

The quality of curriculum religious education RE

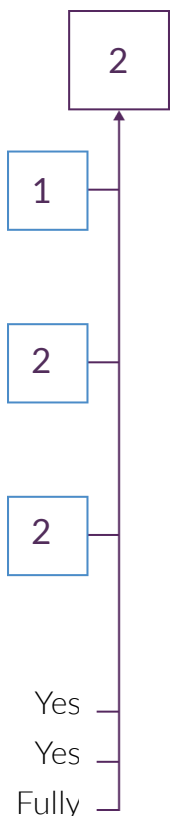
Collective worship (p.7)

The quality and range of liturgy and prayer provided by the school

The school is fully compliant with the general norms for religious education laid down by the Bishops' Conference

The school is fully compliant with any additional requirements of the diocesan bishop

The school has responded to the areas for improvement from the last inspection



What the school does well

- English Martyrs Catholic primary school is a welcoming community where all staff provide pupils with a highly inclusive, nurturing provision.
- Pupils demonstrate an excellent understanding of the Catholic identity of English Martyrs and live this out through exemplary behaviour, mutual respect and strong moral development, which is rooted in Gospel teaching.
- Prayer and liturgy are integral to the daily life of English Martyrs Catholic primary school.
- Pupils attain well in their religious education from their starting points.
- All leaders and governors articulate and model a clear commitment to placing Christ at the heart of the school.

What the school needs to improve

- Extend the range of teaching approaches used in religious education to include discussion and enquiry, accompanied by probing questioning, so pupils are routinely challenged to think deeply.
- Implement a consistent whole-school approach to feedback in religious education so pupils understand how to improve their work and deepen their theological understanding.
- Introduce a formation programme that teaches pupils how to plan, design, lead and evaluate liturgies using the Church's four-part structure (Gather–Listen–Respond–Send), as appropriate to their age.

Catholic life and mission

How faithfully the school responds to the call to live as a Catholic community at the service of the Church's educational mission.

Catholic life and mission key judgement grade

Pupil outcomes

The extent to which pupils contribute to and benefit from the Catholic life and mission of the school

Provision

The quality of provision for the Catholic life and mission of the school

Leadership

How well leaders and governors promote, monitor and evaluate the provision for the Catholic life and mission of the school



Pupils at English Martyrs make an exceptional contribution to the Catholic life and mission of the school. There is an abundantly clear sense of Catholic identity, which all pupils know, understand and articulate with confidence. They speak knowledgeably about their class saints and can give detailed accounts of many of the English martyrs, demonstrating strong understanding. Pupils feel wholly valued because of the understanding and compassionate approaches shown by teachers and other adults. As one pupil expressed, 'God created us in his own, and wonderful, image.' Their moral development is outstanding; Gospel teachings are consistently referenced and lived out, enabling pupils to understand the foundations of the school's values. Catholic social teaching is deeply embedded in their thinking and actions, for example through the pupils' ability to link *Earth Day* to Pope Francis' *Laudato Si'* encyclical. Their behaviour is excellent. Pupils show great care and deep respect for one another in all situations. One pupil commented, 'Our school is where we can meet children of other races, cultures and faiths.' This respect is evident both socially and academically and is strengthened by the excellent role-modelling of staff. Pupils highly value the school's chaplaincy provision, and those elected as worship leaders are proud to serve in these roles.

The provision for Catholic life and mission at English Martyrs is outstanding. The school presents a deeply coherent Catholic identity, visible from its website to the physical environment and lived out through the daily interactions between pupils and staff. It is a sanctuary of faith within its urban setting, where every member of the community goes the extra mile to ensure Christ remains firmly at the heart of school life. The physical environment powerfully expresses this mission: the prayer garden, stations of the cross, the school's values

banners, and extensive pupil artwork all serve as outward signs of a vibrant Catholic ethos, cared for and respected by all. Staff demonstrate exceptional commitment to the school's mission through their nurturing relationships with pupils and their engagement with professional development. Inclusivity is fully embedded as all are welcomed and celebrated as being made in the image and likeness of God. For example, in some classes, lesson slides are presented in two languages to support new pupils, reflecting the school's compassionate approach. Pastoral care is exemplary, extending thoughtfully to families. Chaplaincy provision is highly valued and contributes significantly to pupils' spiritual formation. The school's relationships, sex, and health education curriculum meets diocesan expectations, with pupils affirming that, 'it helps us to build trust and love in our relationships.'

The leaders and governors of English Martyrs have created a strongly Christ-centred school where the Church's mission is woven through the whole curriculum and lived out through a deeply caring and wholly inclusive culture. Their vision is clear, strategic and rooted in Gospel values, and consistently reflected in policies, practices and the daily interactions between staff and pupils, and the pupils' families. Monitoring is rigorous and purposeful: leaders and governors undertake regular learning walks that include seeking pupils' views to ensure accuracy and depth in their evaluations. The strongly articulated commitment to Catholic social teaching by all leaders is modelled through the support they offer to pupils, families and staff. The Archbishop's vision for the diocese is actively promoted, demonstrated through the preparations for joining a local academy trust, the school's rich programme of events for the 2025 Jubilee Year, and the application for the Oscar Romero award. Parish links are exceptionally strong, with pupils benefiting from regular opportunities to attend Mass, receive sacraments and deepen their religious understanding. The partnership with parents is highly effective, strengthened through accessibility, multilingual communication and a culture of welcome. One parent stated that, "the school helps and guides my child through the right path, also recognising the word of God." Staff report feeling well cared for and respected by leaders.

Religious education

How faithfully the school responds to the call to live as a Catholic community at the service of the Church's educational mission.

Religious education key judgement grade

Pupil outcomes

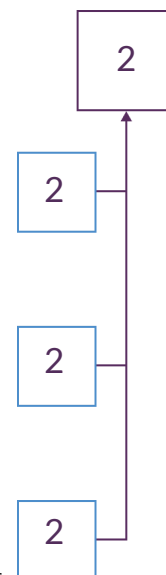
How well pupils achieve and enjoy their learning in religious education

Provision

The quality of teaching, learning, and assessment in religious education

Leadership

How well leaders and governors promote, monitor and evaluate the provision for religious education



Pupils achieve well in religious education at English Martyrs, enjoying lessons and showing genuine interest, diligence and enthusiasm for their learning. They engage positively in lessons demonstrating a developing depth of knowledge and understanding, and recalling prior learning with confidence. Their concentration is sustained, and behaviour is exemplary, enabling them to work independently and remain fully engaged. For the most part, pupils know, do and remember what is expected of them, which leads to good outcomes across the school. They are developing as competent learners who show commitment to making progress. Their religious literacy is strong; pupils use an appropriate range of vocabulary and, when given opportunities to do so, reflect spiritually, think theologically and consider ethical issues with maturity. They are capable of asking incisive questions, and the school's recently introduced *Big Question* approach is supporting them well in developing this skill. Work in books is generally well presented, although the overall quality is not yet consistently high across all classes. Discussions with pupils indicate that they are not always completely clear about how well they are doing or what they need to do to improve further. School data shows that attainment in religious education is at least in line with other core subjects, and often higher.

Teaching and learning in religious education at English Martyrs are securely good. Teachers demonstrate secure subject knowledge of the curriculum, showing a developing understanding of effective pedagogy for the age groups they teach. Their commitment to meaningful religious education is evident, and high expectations are communicated clearly to

pupils. Planning takes account of pupils' needs, and ensures that lessons build appropriately on prior learning. Teachers recognise the importance of giving pupils time to reflect and apply their learning to life beyond school. Questioning is used to shape the direction of lessons, and there are examples where it successfully enables teachers to gauge pupils' understanding. However, further and consistent refinement of questioning would impact upon the depth of pupils' thinking. Feedback is positive and celebratory, both verbally and in books, with some clear next steps provided. A more consistent approach is needed to help all pupils understand how well they are progressing. A good range of tasks and resources support learning, including scripture analysis, letter writing, illustrations and sacred art. Support staff work effectively with teachers, enabling pupils to access learning while maintaining independence. Strengthening the overall precision of teaching and assessment will further impact upon the progress that pupils make.

The leadership of religious education at English Martyrs is securely good. Leaders have ensured that religious education is a faithful expression of the *Religious Education Directory*, with schemes of work thoughtfully enhanced by additional materials to provide good breadth and depth. Religious education enjoys full parity with other core subjects, with more than equitable training, targeted resourcing, staffing and accommodation. Leaders provide regular professional development, resulting in staff who are increasingly confident in their subject knowledge; a broader range of teaching approaches still need to be developed to strengthen overall practice. The subject leader has a clear and inspiring vision, demonstrated through the process of implementing the new diocesan-approved scheme, and through monitoring that has led to the introduction of the *Big Question* approach. Leaders maintain monitoring processes that are established and informative, though they could be used more effectively to secure greater consistency in classroom practice. The curriculum is well sequenced, progressively demanding, and builds securely on pupils' prior learning. A wide range of enrichment activities – including inviting Cafod and The Passage speakers to the school, visits to St George's Cathedral, and Fairtrade learning across many curriculum areas - supports pupils' understanding of Catholic social teaching principles. The school's Jubilee Year 2025 provision ensured pupils developed an excellent understanding of pilgrimage.

Collective worship

The quality and range of liturgy and prayer provided by the school.

Collective worship key judgement grade

Pupil outcomes

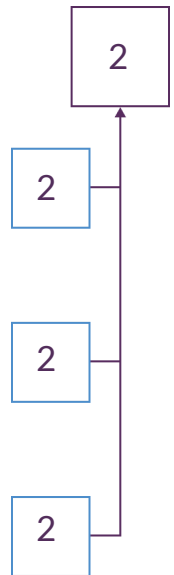
How well pupils participate in and respond to the school's collective worship

Provision

The quality of collective worship provided by the school

Leadership

How well leaders and governors promote, monitor and evaluate the provision for collective worship



Pupils at English Martyrs know and understand the importance of prayer in the life of the school, recognising its significance for Christianity and other faith traditions. During collective worship, they participate respectfully, demonstrating attentiveness and silence, and singing with gusto when appropriate. Pupils have a good understanding of different forms of Catholic prayer, such as praying the rosary in October, praying in silence, and offering praise through song. A prayer booklet, given to all pupils, supports their knowledge of a wide range of traditional prayers. They are confident to lead prayer and liturgy, demonstrating the skills needed to take on these responsibilities with increasing independence. Pupils possess the skills and confidence to construct and evaluate liturgies, deepening their understanding of what it means to be leaders of collective worship. Currently, they see themselves as positive role models, not yet fully recognising their potential role in shaping the wider prayer life of the school. Pupils value liturgy and understand that praying helps them enhance their relationship with Christ. Whilst appreciating the importance of prayer, they are not yet consistently able to articulate how prayer inspires them to take action to improve the world around them.

Prayer and liturgy are wholly integral to the life of English Martyrs school and shape its daily rhythm. The pattern of prayer reflects the liturgical year with care and intention, ensuring pupils experience the richness of the Church's holy days and seasons. The school places strong emphasis on traditional forms of worship, and leaders are beginning to strengthen more creative and spontaneous approaches, for example through joint work with the cathedral music service. Across the school, there are many examples of well-chosen scripture

passages being used effectively to support prayer and reflection. Leaders are also developing approaches to ensure younger pupils can access scripture more readily so that all pupils can engage meaningfully. Staff are excellent role models, demonstrating the importance of prayer and liturgy through their own reverence and participation. Pupils attend Mass regularly in the parish church, with two classes attending each week, deepening their understanding of both the Eucharist and the wider parish community. The prayer garden, designed by pupils, provides a valued space for both structured worship and independent prayer. The Oscar Romero prayer room is similarly well used. Every classroom has a prayer table, all of which are cared for with respect and contribute to the religious ethos of the school's environment.

Leadership of prayer and liturgy at English Martyrs is good. Leaders have established a clear and purposeful policy that is fit for purpose and accessible to all staff. The whole-school calendar is structured around key liturgical holy days and seasons, emphasising the centrality of collective worship in school life. Leaders possess strong knowledge of prayer and liturgy in the Catholic tradition and provide regular professional development, so that expectations are clear for all staff. The inspiring nature of this leadership has encouraged many staff members to continue studying the Catholic faith in their own time. Leaders are well placed to extend the range of experiences offered across the school, drawing on their strong understanding of prayer and liturgy and insight into pupil participation. Resourcing is well-directed, including investment in the prayer garden, the prayer room, and opportunities linked to the Jubilee Year, including the whole-school pilgrimage. Greater consistency in the use of day-to-day objects and artefacts in classrooms is required to further support worship. The evaluation of prayer and liturgy is regular, taking account of pupils' views. Refining these monitoring processes to identify precise impact, will enable leaders to better judge practice, and thus strengthen the provision for collective worship further for the pupils.

Information about the school

Full name of school	English Martyrs' Catholic Primary School
School unique reference number (URN)	100824
School DfE Number (LAESTAB)	2103341
Full postal address of the school	Flint Street, Walworth, London, SE17 1RB
School phone number	0207 703 4726
Headteacher or Head of School	Mr John Camilleri
Chair of Governors	Mr Nicholas Ajaegbu
School Website	www.englishmartyrsprimary.school
Trusteeship	Diocesan
Phase	Primary
Type of school	Voluntary Aided School
Admissions policy	Non Selective
Age-range of pupils	4 - 11
Gender of pupils	Mixed
Date of last denominational inspection	05 November 2019
Previous denominational inspection grade	Good

The Inspection Team

David Hennessey Lead

Maria Liddy

Key to grade judgements

Grade	England	Wales
1	Outstanding	Excellent
2	Good	Good
3	Requires improvement	Adequate and requires improvement
4	Inadequate	Unsatisfactory and in need of urgent improvement