

# History Policy - 2021

St. Michael's Nursery and Infant School



Subject Lead – Mrs. Candice Regan

## Introduction

At St Michael's Nursery and Infant School, we are committed to providing all children with learning opportunities to engage in history. This policy sets out a framework within which teaching and non-teaching staff can work, and gives guidance on planning, teaching and assessment.

History is about real people who lived, and real events which happened in the past. History is concerned with sequence, time and chronology and is the study of evidence about the past; it gives us a sense of identity, set within our social, political, cultural and economic relationships.

History fires the children's curiosity about the past in Britain and the wider world and plays an essential part in preparing us for living and working in the contemporary world.

Pupils consider how the past influences the present, what past societies were like, how these societies organised their politics, and what beliefs and cultures influenced people's actions. As they do this, children develop a chronological framework for their knowledge of significant events and people. They see the diversity of human experience, and understand more about themselves as individuals and members of society. What they learn can influence their decisions about personal choices, attitudes and values.

In history, children find evidence, weigh it up and reach their own conclusions. To do this they need to be able to research, sift through evidence, and argue for their point of view – skills that are prized in adult life.

## Aims

The aims of history are:

- To instil in the children a curiosity and understanding of events, places and people in a variety of times and environments
- To develop an interest in the past and an appreciation of human achievements and aspirations
- To understand the values of our society
- To learn about the major issues and events in the history of our own country and of the world and how these events may have influenced one another
- To develop a knowledge of chronology within which the children can organise their understanding of the past
- To understand how the past was different from the present and that people of other times and places may have had different values and attitudes from ours
- To understand the nature of evidence by emphasising the process of enquiry and by developing the range of skills required to interpret primary and secondary source materials
- To distinguish between historical facts and the interpretation of those facts
- To understand that events have a multiplicity of causes and that historical explanation is provisional, debatable and sometimes controversial

**We aim to link these to our school values, reflection, resilience, pride, aspiration and respect wherever possible.**

## Curriculum

The children undertake a broad and balanced programme that takes account of abilities, aptitudes and physical, emotional and intellectual development.

Through history the children learn a range of skills, concepts, attitudes and methods of working.

## **Early Years**

History is taught in Nursery and Reception as an integral part of the topic work through child-initiated and adult led activities. The children are given the opportunity to find out about past and present events in their own lives, and those of their families and other people they know. In the Early Years, history makes a significant contribution to developing a child's understanding of the world through activities such as looking at pictures of famous people in history or discovering the meaning of new and old in relation to their own lives.

## **Key Stage 1**

During Key Stage 1, pupils learn about people's lives and lifestyles. They find out about significant men, women, children and events from the recent and more distant past in Britain and the wider world. They listen, and respond to stories and use sources of information to help them ask and answer questions. They learn how the past is different from the present.

## **Teaching and Learning**

Our school uses a variety of teaching and learning styles in history lessons. Our principal aim is to develop the children's knowledge, skills and understanding in this subject and we use a variety of teaching and learning styles in our lessons. We believe in whole-class teaching methods and combine these with enquiry-based research activities. We believe children learn best when:

- They have access to, and are able to handle artefacts
- They go on visits to museums and places of interest
- They have access to secondary sources such as books and photographs
- Visitors talk about personal experiences of the past
- They listen to and interact with stories from the past
- They undertake fieldwork by interviewing family and older friends about changes in their own and other people's lives
- They use drama and dance to act out historical events
- They are shown, or use independently, resources from the internet and videos

- They are able to use non-fiction books for research
- They are provided with opportunities to work independently or collaboratively, to ask as well as answer historical questions

We recognise the fact that we have children of differing ability in all our classes, and so we provide suitable learning opportunities for all children by matching the challenge of the task to the ability of the child. We achieve this through a range of strategies which are differentiated by task, expected outcome and/or support from peers or adults.

### **History curriculum planning**

At St. Michael's Nursery and Infant School, history is taught both independently and also through a topic approach alongside Design & Technology, Geography and Art.

Our curriculum is carefully planned over a two-year cycle in KS1, to engage and excite all our learners. Our long-term and medium-term plans map out the skills and themes covered each term for each class. These plans define what we will teach and ensure an appropriate balance and distribution of work across each term.

### **Assessment and Recording**

At St. Michael's Nursery and Infant School, assessment is an integral part of the teaching process. Assessment is used to inform planning and to facilitate differentiation.

The assessment of children's work is on-going to ensure that understanding is being achieved and that progress is being made. Feedback is given to the children as soon as possible, and marking work will be guided by the school's Marking Policy.

Attainment is assessed weekly and then summatively at the end of each unit of work against the requirements of the National Curriculum. This is reported to the Subject Leader and Headteacher.

Pupils achievements in the subject are reported to parents on the end of year report.

## **Monitoring**

Monitoring takes place regularly through sampling children's work, and teacher planning, through book scrutiny and lesson observations. Feedback and Coaching is then given to staff to improve practice and strive for quality first teaching always.

## **Resources**

We have a wide range of text books and interactive boards to access the internet as a class.

The class libraries have a wide range of non-fiction texts on all of our history topics.

Visits are planned to enhance learning and give hands on activity.

People with an interest, or expertise, in a particular topic or area of history could be invited into school to work with the children. These might be parents, grandparents, other family members, neighbours or representatives of the local community.

## **Health and Safety**

Visits and fieldwork are an essential part of the History Curriculum helping to develop knowledge and enquiry.

Children learn best when the learning environment is ordered and they feel safe, any visit should be well organised and provide a stimulating and valuable experience.

The pupils should prepare well for the visit and, on their return, use the experience to good effect in the classroom.

The class teacher, or leader, should plan the visit meticulously, with the pupils' safety and welfare paramount.

A full risk assessment will be carried out for each visit and reviewed by the Education Visits Co-ordinator and Head teacher before any visit. Please see the Policy for Educational Visits for detailed information.

### **Equal Opportunities, Inclusion & Differentiation**

All children regardless of race, culture, religion, social background, gender or academic ability, have equal access to History in order to develop their personal, historical capability.

We carefully plan, monitor and assess to ensure all of our pupils feel valued.

Visits to historical sites may be adapted to consider individual requirements.

Learning is challenging, yet achievable by all children, whatever their abilities and differentiation is achieved by both work set and outcome.

We aim to teach children to uphold where applicable, British Values and a mutual respect and tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs.

Reviewed by: Candice Regan



Date: November 2021

Next Review Date: September 2022