



ALL SAINTS CHURCH OF ENGLAND PRIMARY SCHOOL

History Policy

Importance of History

History fires pupil's curiosity about the past in Britain and the wider 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, pupils 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, pupils 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 life.

Aims

Children should have access to the history curriculum with due regard for individual needs and the requirements of the National Curriculum.

Through work in history we aim to:-

- stimulate children's natural sense of inquisitiveness and enquiry.
- encourage children to develop an interest in the past and that they will come to realise the importance of the past in the development of modern society.
- to develop children's historical skills of chronology, investigation, communication and organisation.
- access to as wide a variety of sources of information as possible.
- to give children as much experience as possible of historical artefacts and sites in order that they learn to interpret and evaluate evidence.

As children progress through the school we hope that they will become confident, competent young historians growing in independence and reaching their full potential. The foundation of skills, concepts and factual knowledge laid in this school should serve as a firm base upon which children can build in their secondary schools.

We believe that children's knowledge and understanding in history is best developed through structured practical tasks and activities. The teacher's professional expertise should support class, group and individual practical work enabling the needs of different ability levels to be met.

Teaching history

Teaching time

In accordance with the QCA scheme of work and the document, Designing and Timetabling the Primary Curriculum, we aim to allocate the following hours annually to the teaching of History

KS1 up to 30 hours

KS2 33 - 36 hours

Teaching is undertaken in units with a nominal weekly allocation of times. Time allocation for each unit follows guidelines set out in the QCA scheme of work. In both key stages this time is allocated in blocks varying weekly/termly according to the topic and focus.

A typical history unit

A typical history unit will follow this general outline:

- a) whole class introduction involving assessment and revision of work already covered in the topic.
- b) a sequence of lessons which build knowledge of the topic
- c) assessment of the knowledge gained by children at the end of the unit, including a record of attainment.

It is important that teaching should ensure that historical enquiry and skills are used when developing the units of study

To facilitate differentiation, continuity and scope for progress we aim to bear the following points in mind in our teaching:

- use open ended tasks whenever possible
- provide extension activities for the more able
- simplify tasks for those with special needs
- avoid the use of closed questions
- give opportunities for children to share and exchange ideas while engaged in practical tasks
- give some individual and small group teaching support to practical work within the constraints of managing the whole class
- provide formats for recording work which allow personal responses to the task
- produce displays to stimulate interest in a topic, to record the development of investigative work and to recapitulate and summarise topics when work is completed.

Homework

Homework time allocations are contained within the school homework policy. History homework will be set as appropriate to consolidate and extend work in school.

Resources

Resources for history to be covered in KS1 and KS2 are kept in the staffroom. There are many books suitable for use in the school library. Education visits are made as appropriate.

Health and Safety

Due regard should be paid at all times to Health and Safety issues. Any outdoor activity programme must be covered by a risk assessment carried out prior to the visit. The statutory risk assessment forms must be completed and endorsed by the Head Teacher before the visit begins. Staff are referred to the school Health and Safety Policy, a copy of which is in the staff room. If in doubt, please consult with the Health and Safety Officer.

Subject Leader's Role

It will be the responsibility of the Subject Leader for History to:

- Have clear views of their curriculum area
- Provide advice and documentation to support work in school in this area
- Organise and manage the resources, including cost effectiveness

- Monitor planning, teaching/learning and assessment
- Have planned and written criteria for monitoring and assessment
- Check whether planning is influenced by monitoring and assessment
- Have written reports on any monitoring and support undertaken
- Have a subject area development plan (in line with the school development plan) with targets to be achieved over a 1/2/3 year period.
- Lead staff meetings as appropriate
- Keep up to date on relevant issues by undertaking INSET and feeding back information to colleagues
- Have written reports on a termly/yearly basis on their subject area within the school.

Monitoring, evaluation and review

This policy will be monitored by the Subject Leader for History, Leadership Team and class teachers. Formal evaluation and review will take place when History is targeted for review within the school's programme of Curriculum Review.

Review

Latest review: June 2013

Next Review: January 2016