



History Policy

February 2013

Aims:

The purpose of teaching history in our school is:

- to introduce pupils to what is involved in understanding and interpreting the past
- to help pupils to understand how the past has influenced the present
- to encourage pupils to understand the nature of evidence by emphasising history as a process of enquiry and develop the range of skills required to interpret primary and secondary source material
- to help pupils develop a sense of identity through learning about the development of their local area, Britain and the world
- to develop understanding of how the past is represented and interpreted
- to help pupils develop their own values and attitudes about the past and to have an increasing understanding of the values and attitudes of others

Objectives:

As part of the Foundation Stage of the National Curriculum, children's work is related to the objectives set out in the Early Learning Goals.

At Key Stage 1 pupils

- Develop an awareness of the past and the ways in which it is different from the present. They are taught about the lives and lifestyles of people in the recent past and about famous people and events in the more distant past. They will begin to develop an understanding of change over time.
- Begin to develop an awareness of time through their own lives and experience of family. This foundation is built upon through discussion, looking at photographs, books, stories, and through information technology, to encompass a greater appreciation of time, and of the differences between their own lives and times past.

During Key Stage 2 pupils build on the work begun at KS1. By the end of year 6 they have studied the following units from the NC programme of study:

- A local study
- Romans, Anglo-Saxons and Vikings in Britain (in depth study of one of these)
- Britain and the wider world in Tudor times
- Victorian Britain
- Britain since 1930
- A European study: The Ancient Greeks
- A world history study: Ancient Egypt
- A civilisation : The Aztecs

Across both key stages pupils develop their knowledge, understanding and skills as identified within the five common strands or aspects. These are *chronological understanding, historical interpretation, historical enquiry, knowledge and understanding of events and people* and *organisation and communication skills*.

Teaching and Learning:

- the organisation of the classes dictates that long and medium term planning cycles are on a two yearly rotational basis in an attempt to ensure that pupils have completed coverage of the NC programme of study.
- when planning the schemes of work across the key stages, attention is paid to providing pupils with i) learning experiences that provide a *balance of knowledge and understanding* appropriate to the key stage and ii) *a balanced range of perspectives* on the lives of people and societies (political, economic, technological. social, religious, cultural and aesthetic.
- opportunities to assess pupils' progress are identified within the short term planning. Records are kept of pupils' achievements in history through both the teacher's notes and the recording system for project work
- A large proportion of work undertaken by pupils has an investigative/enquiry approach. By studying primary and secondary evidence pupils ask questions, analyse information and communicate their knowledge and understanding in a variety of ways.
- Activities are created to provide opportunities for pupils to develop, apply and make progress within the wide range of historical skills and concepts e.g. chronology; change over time; social; cultural; religious and ethnic diversity; historical interpretation.
- as teachers/adults we have an awareness of the messages or bias that we might unwittingly pass on either through our questioning/discussions or selected resources/materials.
- visits and fieldwork are an important part of a pupil's entitlement. They meet the requirement as set out in the Health and Safety policy in relation to school visits. Careful preparation ensures pupils are given tasks appropriate to their ability, which will develop their skills of observation and questioning.
- history makes a significant contribution to the development of language, literacy and occasionally numeracy. Pupils are given the opportunity to use ICT in all areas of their learning.
- activities are created within units, which will encourage pupils to reflect their own values and attitudes in relation to a wider world e.g. moral issues, democracy and tolerance. Whenever possible material is chosen so that a range of multicultural opinion is represented and women and minority groups in past societies are accurately portrayed.
- the work in history is planned to provide appropriate links with other subjects. In KS1 it is often taught as part of an integrated topic. In KS 2 it may be taught as a focussed history unit or alongside other subjects as a broad theme (with the history objectives identified). Aspects of cross- curricular themes, citizenship and PHSE will be included where appropriate.

Recording and Reporting

Reporting to parents is through an annual written report focuses upon attitudes of the child to History, skills, and competence in a variety of applications.

Literacy

We expect pupils to apply the same consistent standard throughout their writing, whether it is in formal Literacy based learning based sessions or more topic based learning sessions.

Information and Communication Technology

ICT will be used not just as a tool for research and presentation but also to enable data bases to be created and films of re-enactments to be recorded.

Inclusion

We ensure that the curriculum is available to all pupils, with equal appropriate access regardless of sex, race, religion or ability.

Role of the Subject Leader

The Subject Leader is responsible for the monitoring and development of the subject throughout the school.

This includes:

- attending cluster group meetings and relevant courses
- working alongside colleagues at both key stages
- updating resources/resource boxes
- checking medium term plans and advising on best practice
- monitoring progression
- looking at project books and talking to pupils about their work

Staff Training

Staff will be encouraged to attend courses and review resources. The History Subject Leader will have access to specific training to support and develop their role.

Dissemination

The Policy is available on the school web site and a paper copy is held in the main school admin office. A short summary will be included in the school prospectus. The policy and schemes of work will be available on request to parents, LA, OFSTED and others working for the school, through the Head teacher.

Reviewing the Policy

This policy will be reviewed annually by the History Subject Leader and monitored by the Link Governor changes made to ensure that the Policy is relevant and up to date.