



Policy: HISTORY POLICY

Introduction/Philosophy

At St. John's Meads, our aim in the teaching of History is to provide the children with the skills and knowledge they will require in order to understand more about themselves as individuals and as members of society. They will develop a chronological framework; consider how the past influences the present, what past societies were like, and how the organisation of these societies, their beliefs and cultures, influenced their actions. We believe that what the children learn can influence their personal decisions, attitudes and values.

Why We Teach History

The teaching of History is fundamental to skills needed both within school and in adult life. We teach children to understand how events in the past have influenced our lives today. Children need to be able to develop skills of enquiry, analysis, interpretation and problem solving in order to reach personal decisions and to develop positive attitudes and values.

Aims of our History Teaching

It is our aim to ensure that each pupil is able to:

- Develop a sense of cultural and world identity
- Understand that the present is influenced by the past
- Know about significant events in British history and to appreciate how things have changed over time
- To develop a sense of chronology
- Research and find evidence so that they can reach their own conclusions
- Argue their point of view using their knowledge of the past
- Sustain an interest in History by using skills of deduction, perception and imagination.

National Curriculum

History is taught through the National Curriculum, using programmes of study and levels of attainment, being further supported by the Creative Learning Wheel. This is incorporated in the School's Curriculum Framework.

Organisation

St. John's Meads is single form entry, with classes from Reception to Year 6. History is taught through a variety of methods, including discreet studies, as well as Topics which may involve other subject areas of the curriculum. The framework sets out areas of study that the children undertake in particular year groups.

Planning

Teachers follow the School's planning system, which includes long, medium and short-term systems. Weekly timetables show when History will be taught, but it may be as part of a Topic. History has many links with other curriculum areas.

Continuity and Progression

The Curriculum Framework that we have developed at St. John's Meads ensures that there is continuity and progression in the skills and knowledge the children learn from the Foundation Stage through to the end of Key Stage 2.

Teaching Methods

We use a variety of teaching methods in order to deliver the curriculum skills and knowledge needed by the pupils. Learning intentions are identified and the most appropriate teaching style selected. This may be whole class, group, or individual teaching (See the Teaching and Learning policy for greater detail.)



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Equal Opportunities and Differentiation

We have a policy of equal opportunities for all pupils. Children identified as needing support are given extra help to understand and complete their work. This may be delivered through the use of a Teaching Assistant. This applies to children who are able, as well as those who find particular difficulties.

Resources

Resources are held in the Resources Room, as well as individual classrooms and activities areas. Each classroom also has Internet access to further support our teaching of History. Visits to other locations are encouraged, as are visitors to the school, to support topic work and History development.

Computing

We encourage the use of Computing, with cameras, recording, video and computer work. Each classroom has at least three 'on-line' computers to access the Internet.

Assessment and Record Keeping

Teachers assess the progress of the children, and work in books acts as a record of their achievement as well as any assessment feedback sheets that are kept. Annual School Reports are written, which include targets for further development. We encourage the children to be involved in setting their own targets and levels of challenge in lessons.

Role of the Headteacher and the History Co-ordinator

It is the responsibility of each teacher to ensure the children are receiving the best possible teaching in History, ensuring the children reach their potential. The Co-ordinator and Headteacher are responsible for monitoring teaching and overall delivery of the subject. It is the responsibility of the Co-ordinator to keep abreast of changes in the curriculum and update support available.