

St Joseph's Catholic Primary School

St Joseph's school is a Christian community in which individuals are valued and respected, and encouraged to reach their full potential and be 'The Best They Can Be'
Faith, Hope, Love.



Policy for History

Approved by FGB: 22nd January 2020

Review Due: July 2023

Introduction

At St Joseph's we believe that History is an essential part of the curriculum and teachers ensure that children develop their 'knowledge and understanding of Britain's past and that of the wider world.' From the Early Years Foundation Stage through to Year 6, engaging and interactive History lessons encourage children to be inspired by the past. Skills developed through History help pupils make sense of their 'own identity and challenges faced' through time.

Aims and objectives (As stated by the National Curriculum)

Through the teaching of History we aim to:

- Know and understand the history of these islands as a coherent, chronological narrative, from the earliest times to the present day: how people's lives have shaped this nation and how Britain has influenced and been influenced by the wider world.
- Know and understand significant aspects of the history of the wider world: the nature of ancient civilisations; the expansion and dissolution of empires; characteristic features of past non-European societies; achievements and follies of mankind.
- Gain and employ a historically grounded understanding of abstract terms such as 'empire', 'civilisation', 'parliament' and 'peasantry'.
- Understand historical concepts such as continuity and change, cause and consequence, similarity, difference and significance, and use them to make connections, draw contrasts, analyse trends, frame historically-valid questions and create their own structured accounts, including written narratives and analyses.
- Understand the methods of historical enquiry, including how evidence is used rigorously to make historical claims, and discern how and why contrasting arguments and interpretations of the past have been constructed.
- Gain historical perspective by placing their growing knowledge into different contexts, understanding the connections between logical, regional, national and international history; between cultural, economic, military, political, religious and social history; and between short - and long-term timescales.

School Staff

At Joseph's Catholic Primary School staff are:

- to deliver a high quality history education that will engage and inspire pupils to develop a love of history
- to promote a confident, positive attitude towards the learning of history, making it an enjoyable experience;
- to provide opportunities for the development of historical skills where relevant across the curriculum;
- inspire children's curiosity to know more about the past
- equip pupils to ask perceptive questions, think critically, weigh evidence, sift arguments and develop perspective and judgement

- help pupils to understand the complexity of people's lives, the process of change, the diversity of societies and relationships between different groups, as well as their own identity and the challenges of their time
- to model and use historical vocabulary e.g. past, present, chronology, parliament, economic, cultural
- to develop a sense of chronology and understand how they fit into the framework of the past, present and future.

Implementation of History

Elements of History are delivered to the Reception children, through the Foundation Stage Curriculum (Understanding the World - People and Communities). In KS1 & KS2 History is taught through planning linked to the National Curriculum. The units covered in each year can be found on the long-term plans. Some elements of History are also taught through cross-curricular topics for example, Science, Geography and Computing.

In the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) the children explore the past of familiar people and look at specific changes over time in an age-appropriate manner. For example, the development of toys over time.

All pupils are taught so that each child can be the best that they can be. Planning is well thought through to allow for children to build upon prior knowledge as they move through the school. Children are taught specific objectives in each year group. This is so there is no repetition and the children get the breadth of opportunity within this area of learning.

History teaching focuses on enabling children to think as historians. In each Key Stage we give children the opportunity to visit sites of historical significance e.g. Stonehenge, Gloucestershire Warwickshire Railway. We use a variety of teaching and learning styles in history lessons. Our principal aim is to develop the children's knowledge, skills and understanding in history and we use a variety of teaching and learning styles in our history 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 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.

Monitoring and Review

The Head teacher (Wendy D'Arcy) and History Subject Leader (Katie McCarthy) will monitor the effectiveness of this policy on a regular basis. The Head teacher and History Subject Leader will report to the governing body on the effectiveness of the policy annually and, if necessary, makes recommendations for further improvements.