

English Martyrs' Catholic Primary School



History Policy

Our Mission

Our children are all unique, beautiful **individuals** but together we are a **masterpiece**, brothers and sisters in **Christ**.

As witnesses of Christ, working together as a **Team**, we strive to promote the **Gospel Values** and Teachings of Jesus by providing a **caring, stimulating environment**, with **nurture, trust, love** and **tolerance** through our spirituality, learning and play. By making connections with Jesus, we promote **high ambitions** and **confidence** to achieve our goals.

History is about real people who lived, and real events that 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.

Intent

Within our curriculum, we ensure all children are prepared for life, with the skills they need to achieve, aspire and accomplish both academically, emotionally, spiritually and creatively, regardless of their faith, creed or race; meeting every child's potential and their needs. At English Martyrs' this includes meeting the needs of a very mixed community representing a broad range of faiths, ethnicities, creeds and socio-economic circumstances: a significant proportion of children with high needs and are disadvantaged; children living in high social deprivation, asylum seekers, vulnerable children and families who seek security and safety in our school family.

Our intent is for learning without barriers so that all children can succeed.

Our Intent is to meet these needs by...

- ...providing exciting opportunities for children to explore History that is important to them and their lives.
- ...provide the cultural capital needed so that children are well placed for future positive outcomes.
- ...providing all children with the opportunities to develop and use reading and writing to develop and consolidate historical knowledge and understanding.
- ...developing children's historical enquiry skills.
- ...giving opportunities to use significant historical facts which influence and enhance children's own lives.
- ...providing exciting and enticing methods to explore history, including the use of Digital Technologies, so that it engages learners at all stages and phases.
- ...providing bespoke, exciting and engaging activities, projects and experiences for children to explore and ask questions.
- ...providing challenge for all so that all children have the opportunity to reach their potential.
- ...providing opportunities to share knowledge, skill and understanding of basic with others.
- ...using the wider community and environment to develop historical enquiry skill, knowledge and understanding.
- ...providing a variety of mediums to explore and use in order to enhance learning and understanding.
- ...providing tailored support for children at all standards in development so that they can thrive.
- ...providing a range of opportunities for children to experience living history, in the living world and in the past, linking it to learners' own lives.

Implementation

In order to implement the above intentions, it is necessary for us to ensure:

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 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 Foundation Stage, 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.

Key Stage 2

During Key Stage 2, pupils learn about significant people, events and places from both recent and more distant past. They learn about change and continuity in their own area, in Britain and in other parts of the world. They look at history in a variety of ways, for example from political, economic, technological and scientific, social, religious, cultural or aesthetic perspectives. They use different sources of information to help them investigate the past both in depth and in overview, using dates and historical vocabulary to describe events, people and developments. They also learn that the past can be represented and interpreted in different ways.

Teaching and Learning

The 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 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 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 that are differentiated by task, expected outcome and/or support from peers or adults.

History curriculum planning

At English Martyrs' Catholic Primary School, history is taught through a topic approach alongside Design & Technology, Geography and Art. Our curriculum is carefully planned 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 key stage (see Appendix). These plans define what we will teach and ensure an appropriate balance and distribution of work across each term.

Roles and Responsibilities

The subject is led by the Humanities Curriculum Team and time is set aside to review standards and monitor curriculum provision and ensure training and resources are up to date.

Resources

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

Impact

The Humanities Curriculum Team will measure Impact of the implementations of the History curriculum in collaboration with class teachers and SLT through:

Assessment and Recording

At English Martyrs' Catholic Primary 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.

Monitoring

Monitoring takes place regularly through sampling children's work, and teacher planning, through a book scrutiny and lesson observations.

Curriculum Team responsible: Humanities Team

Policy Written: October 2019

Policy Agreed by Governors: November 2019

Date to be reviewed: October 2021 or sooner in light of developing initiatives