

“A unique family working together to be the best”

Forest Lodge Community Primary School



History Policy

WHAT IS HISTORY AT FOREST LODGE PRIMARY SCHOOL?

History is the study of the way of life of people, of ideas and events in the past, based on the interpretation of available evidence. The study is concerned with understanding the influences which have shaped British history as well as societies in the wider world and inspire pupil's curiosity to know more about the past.

Teaching should equip pupils to ask perceptive questions, answer critically, weigh evidence and develop judgement. This policy outlines the guiding principles by which this school will implement history in the National Curriculum. It is reviewed periodically.

INTRODUCTION.

This policy reflects the school's values and philosophy contained in the Teaching & Learning policy which underpins all of the practice in our school. It sets out a framework within which staff can operate and gives guidance on planning, teaching and assessment.

AIMS

- To enable children to gain an understanding of the past, with relation to themselves, their families, their communities and the wider world, as appropriate to age, ability and aptitude.
- To promote an interest in the past
- To develop an understanding of events over time and in a chronological structure
- To know and understand the History of Britain, from the earliest times to the present day. How people's lives have shaped this nation and how Britain has influenced the wider world.
- To know and understand significant aspects of the history of the wider world and the nature of ancient civilisations.
- To gain an understanding of terms such as 'empire', 'civilisation', 'parliament' and 'peasantry'.
- To encourage a lively and questioning approach to History which enables children to enjoy what they do.
- To encourage an awareness that, though there are links between History and other subject areas, the study of the past is, in itself, a separate and important discipline.
- To develop an ability to investigate and interpret different versions of past events
- To learn to study historical evidence and to ask and answer questions about the past.
- To develop the ability to communicate historical knowledge and understanding using a variety of techniques

ATTITUDE AND SKILLS

We also seek to encourage children to develop the following skills:

- Empathy
- Interpretation of secondary and primary sources
- Historical enquiry
- Communicating history dramatically, verbally and narratively
- Research

MANAGEMENT AND ORGANISATION.

- This subject is managed by the History Subject Leader working in conjunction with the Senior Leadership Team. Although long term planning and detailed Schemes of Work are provided, it is expected that each teacher will adapt these plans in order to meet the needs of the pupils in their class.

THE ROLE OF THE HISTORY CO-ORDINATOR IS:

- Taking the lead in the development, evaluation and amendment of schemes of work as and when necessary
- Acting as a consultant to colleagues on resources, visits, visitors, curriculum changes, classroom teaching and learning ideas
- Monitoring and evaluating pupils' work, pupils' views about the subject, displays and teachers' planning.
- Writing School development plan.
 - a) Auditing and ordering resources when needed.
 - b) co-ordinating staff requests for resources,
 - c) monitoring and maintaining condition and availability of resources,
- Keeping up to date with developments in history and disseminating information to the rest of the teaching staff.
- Leading staff meetings as appropriate.
- Attending relevant in-service training and prompting others about relevant training.
- looking at the provision for Gifted & Talented pupils,
- Having an understanding of levels and standards in the subject.

INSET

Staff development in this area of the curriculum is sometimes provided by the LEA or other organisations offering conferences on particular issues.

The needs of the school are identified through appraisal, curriculum review and school development planning. They are prioritised and recorded by the Subject Leader and monitored by the SLT.

CURRICULUM PLANNING AND ORGANISATION.

FOUNDATION STAGE

History in the Foundation Stage is taught under the umbrella of 'Knowledge and Understanding of the World' from the EYFS. The children are supported in developing the knowledge, skills and understanding that helps them to make sense of the world. The pupils are encouraged to talk about their families and past and present events in their lives. They are beginning to gain knowledge and understanding of the world through:

- Photographs
- Listening to stories and memories of older people
- Role play activities
- Discussing events in the past and their own personal lives
- Sequencing events to gain a sense of time

KEY STAGE 1

The National Curriculum Programme of Study at Key Stage 1 focuses on developing children's awareness of the past, using common words and phrases relating to the passing of time. They should know where the people and events they study fit within a chronological framework and identify similarities and differences between ways of life in different periods. Children should use a wide vocabulary of everyday historical terms. They should ask and

answer questions, choosing and using parts of stories and other sources to show that they know and understand key features of events. They should understand some of the ways in which we find out about the past and identify different ways in which it is represented.

In planning to ensure the progression described above through teaching about the people, events and changes outlined below, teachers are often introducing pupils to historical periods that they will study more fully at Key Stage 2.

Pupils should be taught about:

- Changes within living memory
- Events beyond living memory that are significant nationally or globally
- The lives of significant individuals in the past who have contributed to national and international achievements
- Significant historical events, people and places in their own locality

KEY STAGE 2

The National Curriculum Programme of Study at Key Stage 2 should continue to allow children to develop a chronologically secure knowledge and understanding of British, local and world history, establishing clear narratives within and across the periods they study. They should note connections, contrasts and trends over time and develop the appropriate use of historical terms. They should regularly address and sometimes devise historically valid questions about change, cause, similarity and difference, and significance. Children should construct informed responses that involve thoughtful selection and organisation of relevant historical information. They should understand how our knowledge of the past is constructed from a range of sources.

In planning to ensure the progression, teachers should combine overview and depth studies to help pupils understand both the long arc of development and the complexity of specific aspects of the content.

Pupils should be taught about:

- Changes in Britain from the Stone Age to the Iron Age
- The Roman Empire and its impact on Britain
- Britain's settlement by Anglo-Saxons and Scots
- The Viking and Anglo-Saxon struggle for the Kingdom of England to the time of Edward the Confessor
- A local history study
- A study of an aspect or theme in British history that extends pupils' chronological knowledge beyond 1066
- The achievements of the earliest civilizations - an overview of where and when the first civilizations appeared and a depth study of one of the following: Ancient Sumer; The Indus Valley; Ancient Egypt; The Shang Dynasty of Ancient China
- Ancient Greece - a study of Greek life and achievements and their influence on the western world
- A non-European society that provides contrasts with British history - one study chosen from: early Islamic civilization, including a study of Baghdad c. AD 900; Mayan civilization c. AD 900; Benin (West Africa) c. AD 900-1300

RECORDING OF HISTORY

Pupils are encouraged to record their work using a variety of methods and therefore communicate their findings to others. These may include written or verbal reports, charts, collage, models, pictures and role play activities. Examples of children's work will be retained to provide evidence of on-going history, including photographic evidence of displays, presentations, visiting speakers and historical visits.

CLASSROOM MANAGEMENT

The history curriculum follows coverage from the National Curriculum.

Planning is completed on the school medium term plan pro-forma to illustrate skill development, lesson content, learning objectives, resources and differentiation. As we understand that there are many different history abilities in each class, we ensure that each unit of work has sufficient differentiation to allow all children to work at their level of challenge.

CROSS CURRICULAR LINKS IN HISTORY

LITERACY

History contributes significantly to the teaching of Literacy in our school by actively promoting the skills of reading, writing, speaking and listening. Some of the texts that are used in Literacy lessons are historical in nature. Children develop oracy through discussing historical questions or presenting their findings to the rest of the class. They develop their writing ability by composing reports and letters and through using writing frames.

NUMERACY

History teaching contributes to the teaching of mathematics in a variety of ways. Children learn to use numbers when developing a sense of chronology through doing activities such as time-lines. Children learn to interpret information presented in graphical or diagrammatic form.

COMPUTING

We use computing in history teaching where appropriate. Children use computing in history to enhance their skills in data handling and in presenting written work, and they research information using the Internet. Each teacher ensures it is used as a teaching tool where appropriate, and provides opportunities for children to also use it.

PERSONAL, SOCIAL AND HEALTH EDUCATION (PSHE)

History contributes significantly to the teaching of personal, social, citizenship and health education. Children develop self-confidence by having opportunities to explain their views on a number of social questions such as how society should respond to poverty. They learn how to recognise and challenge stereotypes. They learn how society is made up of people from different cultures and start to develop tolerance and respect for others.

ENRICHMENT OF THE CURRICULUM.

Class teachers arrange outside visitors or field trips to support their teaching. A list of possible visitors/locations is kept by the History Subject Leader.

EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES

- We plan our classroom activities to challenge and involve all pupils appropriately, according to age and capability, ethnic diversity, gender and language background
- We are aware of different learning styles and the need to allow pupils to be able to work in their preferred learning styles for some of the time
- We use materials for teaching which avoid stereo-typing, and bias, towards race, gender, role or disability
- We deal with such issues clearly and sensitively when they arise

DIFFERENTIATION

At our school we teach history to all children, whatever their ability. History forms part of the school curriculum policy to provide a broad and balanced education to all children. Through our history teaching we provide learning opportunities that enable all pupils to make progress. We do this by setting suitable learning challenges and responding to each child's different needs. Assessment against the National Curriculum allows us to consider each child's attainment and progress against expected levels. We use a range of strategies to support pupils. A few of these, particularly relevant to History are:

- The use of appropriate vocabulary at varying levels of difficulty during lessons
- Modified text passages as expected in other curriculum areas
- Different levels of written or oral questions for pupils investigating photographic or other visual material
- Careful use of support for pupils with English as an additional language

FOR OUR GIFTED AND TALENTED PUPILS WE WILL EXPECT:

- Teachers to provide teaching and learning experiences that encourage pupils to think creatively, explore and develop ideas, and try different approaches. Pupils should be encouraged to set their own questions, offer ideas, suggest solutions or explanations, and reflect on what they have heard, seen or done in order to clarify their thoughts.
- Greater independence in working, e.g. a pupil to be able to carry out their own simple historical enquiry.
- Provide real-life research and presentation opportunities, for example carrying out interviews with local people and collating the results.
- Avoid giving gifted pupils additional writing tasks and encourage them instead to communicate their understanding in a variety of ways, giving them responsibility for choosing and evaluating the most appropriate method.
- Provide opportunities within history for pupils to develop their skills in other areas, such as intrapersonal skills (for example, opportunities to use initiative), and interpersonal skills (for example, leadership and group membership). These opportunities also relate to the key skills of working with others and improving own learning and performance.

ASSESSMENT AND RECORDING.

Teachers assess children's work and attainment in history in a variety of ways including:

- a) direct observation of pupils work - individual and in groups,
- b) listening to what children say,
- c) discussing work and ideas - individuals and groups,
- d) Marking of written work in line with the School Marking Policy.

Children's progress should be monitored through observation and by using assessment grids produced for each year group. Data will be put onto Target Tracker for the coordinator to evaluate. The assessment grids will help teachers in their planning of History and what topics and objectives/skills need to be taught within each year group.

MONITORING AND EVALUATION.

An annual assessment of progress is made as part of the child's annual report to parents.

HEALTH AND SAFETY.

It is each teacher's responsibility to make daily risk assessments in order to ensure the safety of their pupils.

Details of risk assessment arrangements for off-site trips supporting the teaching and learning of history are contained in the school's Health and Safety Policy.

POLICY REVIEW.

This policy is a working document and, therefore, needs to reflect the practise in school while taking into account new initiatives, changes in the curriculum and/or the environment. This policy will be reviewed in May 2017.

Completed
May 2016