

Leamington Community Primary School
'Together we make a Difference'



History Policy

HISTORY POLICY DOCUMENT

MISSION STATEMENT

We at Leamington Community Primary School will work to provide a happy, secure and stimulating environment in which every child is valued and encouraged to achieve their full potential through the development of a love of learning and a desire to expand their knowledge.

Aims and objectives

The aim of history teaching here at Leamington Community Primary School is to stimulate the children's interest and understanding about the life of people who lived in the past. We teach children a sense of chronology, and through this they develop a sense of identity and a cultural understanding based on their historical heritage. Thus they learn to value their own and other people's cultures in modern multicultural Britain and, by considering how people lived in the past, they are better able to make their own life choices today. We teach children to understand how events in the past have influenced our lives today; we also teach them to investigate these past events and, by so doing, to develop the skills of enquiry, analysis, interpretation and problem-solving.

The aims of history in our school are:

- to foster in children an interest in the past and to develop an understanding that enables them to enjoy all that history has to offer
- to develop a sense of chronology
- to know and understand how the British system of democratic government has developed and, in so doing, to contribute to a child's citizenship education;
- to understand how Britain is part of a wider European culture and to study some aspects of European history;
- to have some knowledge and understanding of historical development in the wider world;
- to help children understand society and their place within it, so that they develop a sense of their cultural heritage;
- to develop in children the skills of enquiry, investigation, analysis, evaluation and presentation.

Teaching and learning style

History teaching focuses on enabling children to think as historians. We place an emphasis on examining historical artefacts and primary sources. In each key stage we give children the opportunity to visit sites of historical significance. We encourage visitors to come into the school and talk about their experiences of events in the past. We recognize and value the importance of stories in history teaching and we regard this as an important way of stimulating interest in the past. We focus on helping children understand that historical events can be interpreted in different ways and

that they should always ask searching questions, such as 'how do we know?', about information they are given.

History curriculum planning

We use the national scheme of work for history as the basis for our curriculum planning in history, but we have adapted this to the local context by building on the successful units of work already in place. We ensure that there are opportunities for children of all abilities to develop their skills and knowledge in each unit and we build planned progression into the scheme of work so that the children are increasingly challenged as they move up through the school.

We carry out curriculum planning in history through a thematic approach, and where possible adapt the 'Mantle of the Expert'. The long-term plan maps the history topics studied in each term during each key stage and the children study history topics in conjunction with other subjects. Some topics have a particular historical focus and in Key Stage 2 we place an increasing emphasis on independent historical study. We teach the knowledge, skills and understanding set out in the National Curriculum through the corresponding programme of study.

As the basis for our medium-term plans, we use the national scheme of work which gives details of each unit of work for each term. The history subject leader keeps and reviews these plans on a regular basis.

Foundation Stage

We teach history in reception classes as an integral part of the topic work covered during the year. As the reception class is part of the Foundation Stage of the National Curriculum, we relate the history side of the children's work to the objectives set out in the Early Learning Goals (ELGs) which underpin the curriculum planning for children aged three to five. History makes a significant contribution to the ELG objectives of developing a child's knowledge and understanding of the world through activities such as dressing up in historical costumes, looking at pictures of famous people in history or discovering the meaning of new and old in relation to their own lives.

The contribution of history to other subjects

English

History contributes significantly to the teaching of English in our school by actively promoting the skills of reading, writing, speaking and listening. Some of the texts that we use in the Literacy lessons are historical in nature. Children develop 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.

Maths

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, for example they study the impact of the plague by analysing population statistics.

Computing

We use Computing in history teaching where appropriate and we meet the statutory requirement for children to use ICT as part of their work in history at Key Stage 2. Children use Computing in history to enhance their skills in data handling and in presenting written work, and they research information using the Internet. We facilitate this through the use of the computer suite, laptops and iPads. Children have the opportunity to use the digital camera to record and use photographic images.

Personal, social and health education (PSHE) and citizenship

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 and homelessness. They discover how to be active citizens in a democratic society by learning how laws are made and changed, and they learn how to recognize and challenge stereotypes and to appreciate that racism is a harmful aspect of society. They learn how society is made up of people from different cultures and start to develop tolerance and respect for others.

Spiritual, moral, social and cultural development

When teaching history, we contribute to the children's spiritual development where possible. Children learn about the role of the church in Tudor times and they find out how British society has changed over time. The history programme of study enables children to understand that Britain's rich cultural heritage can be further enriched by the multi-cultural British society of today.

Teaching history to children with special educational needs

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.

When progress falls significantly outside the expected range, the child may have special educational needs. Our assessment process looks at a range of factors - classroom organisation, teaching materials, teaching style, and differentiation - so that we can take some additional or different action to enable the child to learn more effectively. This ensures that our teaching is matched to the child's needs.

Intervention through School Action and School Action Plus will lead to the creation of an Individual Education Plan (IEP) for children with special educational needs. The IEP may include, as appropriate, specific targets relating to history.

We enable pupils to have access to the full range of activities involved in learning history. Where children are to participate in activities outside the classroom, we carry out a risk assessment prior to the activity, to ensure that the activity is safe and appropriate for all pupils.

Assessment and recording

We assess children's work in history by making informal judgements as we observe them during each history lesson. On completion of a piece of work, the teacher marks the work (according to school marking policy) and comments as necessary. We use this as a basis for assessing the progress of the child at the end of the year. Every teacher keeps a file for a HA, MA and LA child with evidence of work to assess this child according to our History level descriptors. We also use a highlighted sheet at the end of every session to inform further planning.

Resources

There are sufficient resources for all history teaching units in the school. We keep these resources in a central store where there is a box of equipment for each unit of work. The library contains a good supply of topic books and software to support children's individual research.

Differentiation

Differentiation should be achieved both through differentiated activities and through differentiation of intended outcomes or task. For example, pupils who are progressing rapidly should be encouraged to extend their Computing experiences either through the use of more challenging software, or simply an alternative software package to provide depth of experience, or by extending the task which has been set.

Equal opportunities

As mentioned in the Disability Equality Scheme, all reasonable adjustments will be made to the Computing curriculum to allow all stakeholders to have access to the full curriculum regardless of any disability. Any child with a disability will be targeted, tracked and planned for to ensure they have full access to the curriculum, and that good progress is made.

Every Child Matters

Children will be taught in line with the Every Child Matters document covering the five areas:

- Economic wellbeing
- Enjoy and achieve
- Be healthy
- Be safe
- Make a positive contribution

Be Healthy Be Safe

It is imperative that all electrical equipment is kept in good working order. To ensure the health and safety of pupils and staff the following guidelines must be adhered to:

1. Pupils should not be allowed to switch on the computer at the mains.
2. Equipment should be situated away from water.
3. Pupils should always be supervised when using electrical equipment.
4. All plugs, leads and equipment should be checked regularly and tested for electrical safety in accordance with LA guidelines.
5. Pupils should not be allowed to carry computers or printers.
6. All leads should be packed away from general classroom traffic.

Periodically, teachers will ensure that they will help the children understand health and safety aspects of working with computers, including correct posture when working.

MONITORING AND REVIEW

This policy is reviewed annually by the History Subject leader.
The Policy will also be reviewed by staff