

St Matthew's Bloxam C of E Primary School



History Policy 2023

Purpose of Study

The national Curriculum states that “History helps 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.” At St Matthew’s Bloxam C of E primary school we want our children to gain a secure knowledge and understanding of Britain and the wider world’s past and be able to develop the confidence to analyse the past through a range of resources. We want to enable children to ask questions and think critically about the periods of history they study.

As a school we follow the Connected Curriculum planning for History, but use local area studies to enhance this scheme for our children.

Aims

The national curriculum for history aims to ensure that all pupils:

- 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 deploy 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 local, regional, national and international history; between cultural, economic, military, political, religious and social history; and between short- and long-term timescales.

Objectives

Early Years

In the early years, history is taught as part of the topic work through child-initiated and adult led activities. Through their teaching, children are given the opportunities to find out about past and present events in their own and family/friends lives. In the early years, history helps children to develop an understanding of the world through a variety of activities, including through stories.

Key Stage 1

During Key Stage 1, children will learn about people's lives and lifestyles. They will achieve this by finding out about significant people and events from the past in the local area, Britain and around the world. They will use stories and information to help develop their understanding of past events and start to help them ask and answer questions. They will start to develop their understanding of past events compared to present events.

Key Stage 2

During Key Stage 2, children will learn about significant events, people and places from the local area, Britain and around the world. They will build upon the skills developed in Key Stage 1 and develop their understanding of change and continuity of these events, people and places. They will use a wide variety of resources to develop their understanding and question the sources to come to their own conclusions about the event, person or place. Using these they will learn how the past can be represented and interpreted in different ways.

Teaching and learning

At St Matthew's Bloxam we want to encourage all children to think as historians. We encourage children to examine a range of sources (primary and secondary) as well as artefacts as and when appropriate. We encourage use of visits and experiences to give children the opportunity to explore places of historical significance. We encourage children to question what they find out and discuss how history can be interpreted in different ways.

As a school, each year group is encouraged to use the library and museum to enhance children's understanding of History topics and make connections with the history of the local area. Some of the activities year groups have taken part in are: local tours of Rugby led by volunteer groups associated with the museum, visits to Coventry Cathedral to learn about the role Coventry had in World War Two and the subsequent reconciliation efforts and viewing exhibitions set up by the museum throughout the year.

Planning

At St Matthew's Bloxam, teachers use a range of whole-class teaching, group or individual activities to ensure children gain a valuable learning experience from the topics studied. The topics covered are mapped out in the topic long-term planning and teachers use this to aid their long-term planning and weekly plans.

Assessment

The approach to assessment, record keeping and reporting of this subject area follows the whole school policy guidelines. All children's work is regularly marked and assessed against the key skills.

Children are encouraged to improve their own learning performance through the school marking policy.

Resources

At St Matthew's Bloxam children have access to a range of resources and these are stored in topic boxes clearly labelled for each unit. These boxes are monitored to ensure high quality resources are available for all classes to access. The library also has a range of books that can be accessed to aid teaching. All teachers have access to the planning documents for the connected curriculum.

Monitoring

The history lead will monitor books at the end of a unit of work. Throughout the year learning walks take place to ensure high-quality teaching in history.