**St Mary’s RC Primary School – How do we teach history?**

**Intent:**

At St Mary’s RC Primary School history education should be fully inclusive to every child. Our aims are to fulfil the requirements of the National Curriculum for history; providing a broad, balanced and differentiated curriculum; ensuring the progressive development of historical concepts, knowledge and skills; and for the children to develop a love for history. Furthermore, we aim to inspire in pupils a curiosity and fascination about history that will remain with them for the rest of their lives. A high-quality history education will help pupils gain a coherent knowledge and understanding of Britain’s past and that of the wider world (The 2014 Primary National Curriculum in England).

History teaching at St Mary’s Primary School has a wide application to everyday life, teaching the children to enjoy learning about the past and to have a better understanding of the society in which they live.

The aims of teaching history in our school are:

• To inspire pupils’ curiosity to discover more about the past and to develop an understanding that enables them to enjoy all that history has to offer;

• To enable children to know about significant events in British history and to appreciate how things have changed over time;

• 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, debate, interpretation, problem solving and presentation.

**Implementation:**

To ensure high standards of teaching and learning in history, we implement a curriculum that is progressive throughout the whole school. History is taught as part of a termly topic, focusing on knowledge and skills stated in the National Curriculum. At St Mary’s, we ensure that history has the same importance given to it as the core subjects, as we feel this is important in enabling all children to gain ‘real-life’ experiences.

The history curriculum at St Mary’s Primary School is based upon the 2014 Primary National Curriculum in England, which provides a broad framework and outlines the knowledge and skills and taught in each Key Stage. Teachers plan lessons for their class using our progression of knowledge and skills document. Teachers can use this document to plan their history lessons suitable to their class’s interests and what they want to learn. The progression document ensures the curriculum is covered and the skills/knowledge taught is progressive from year group to year group. History teaching focuses on enabling children to think as critically. A variety of teaching approaches are used based on the teacher’s judgement. History provides excellent opportunities to enhance the learning of more able pupils through the investigations, analysing sources and writing extending pieces. At St Mary’s Primary School we provide a variety of opportunities for history learning inside and outside the classroom. Every year we invite outside agencies and professionals to our school to hold special workshops. These activities should be guided by the children’s interests in particular topics. Educational visits are another opportunity for the teachers to plan for additional history learning outside the classroom. At St Mary’s Primary School, the children have had many opportunities to experience history on educational visits. The children have explored local museums and had visitors into school to share history learning and have hands on experiences.

**Impact:**

Within history, we strive to create a supportive and collaborative ethos for learning by providing investigative and enquiry based learning opportunities. Emphasis is placed on investigative learning opportunities to help children gain a coherent knowledge of understanding of each unit of work covered throughout the school. Our history curriculum is high quality, well thought out and is planned to demonstrate progression. We focus on progression of knowledge and skills and discreet vocabulary progression also form part of the units of work.

We measure the impact of our curriculum through the following methods:

* Assessing children’s understanding of topic linked vocabulary before and after the unit is taught.
* Summative assessment of pupil discussions about their learning.
* Images and videos of the children’s practical learning.
* Interviewing the pupils about their learning (pupil voice).
* Moderation staff meetings where pupil’s books are scrutinised and there is the opportunity for a dialogue between teachers to understand their class’s work.
* Annual reporting of standards across the curriculum.
* Marking of written work in books.

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