

The Whitchurch CE Federation The Independent Me - History



'We are not makers of history. We are made by history.' Martin Luther King.

Intent

At The Whitchurch CE Federation our History curriculum will help pupils to gain a coherent knowledge and understanding of Britain's past and that of the wider world. Our aim is to inspire children's curiosity about the past enabling them to know more. Our teaching will equip children to be inquisitive, ask questions, think critically, weigh evidence and sift arguments in order to develop their outlook and judgements. The History curriculum will develop pupil's understanding of both the local and wider world historical events to encourage thoughts on how life has changed and how they can prepare for a world that is ever-changing. In addition to these offerings our aim is to provide all pupils with a range of primary and secondary sources at a level that is best suited to their needs so all pupils can learn how to use them successfully to enrich their learning journey.

Through our curriculum, we will develop the following characteristics in our children:

- An excellent knowledge and understanding of people, events, and contexts from a range of historical periods and of historical concepts and processes.
- The ability to think critically about history and communicate ideas very confidently in styles appropriate to a range of audiences.
- The ability to consistently support, evaluate and challenge their own and others' views using detailed, appropriate and accurate historical evidence derived from a range of sources.
- The ability to think, reflect, debate, discuss and evaluate the past, formulating and refining questions and lines of enquiry.
- A passion for history and an enthusiastic engagement in learning, which develops their sense of curiosity about the past and their understanding of how and why people interpret the past in different ways.
- A respect for historical evidence and the ability to make robust and critical use of it to support their explanations and judgments.
- A desire to embrace challenging activities, including opportunities to undertake high-quality research across a range of history topics.

Implementation

In Early Years children experience learning through the educational programme, Understanding the world. Children are encouraged to comment on images of familiar situations in the past and compare and contrast characters from stories, including figures from the past.

History across KS1 and KS2 is taught in blocks throughout the year as part of our Independent Me driver. Children explore key concepts that are repeated across the year groups so pupils can gradually increase their understanding of them and achieve depth in their learning.

The key concepts for our History curriculum are:

- Investigate and Interpret the past;
- Understand chronology;
- To communicate historically;
- Build an overview of world history.

Impact

Historical study at The Whitchurch CE Federation enables children to understand and use the key skills of chronological understanding, knowledge and understanding of events in the past, historical interpretation, historical enquiry and organisation and communication to become powerful and skilled individuals. Children will have an understanding of their place within the world, how things have changed and why and they will learn lessons from history to influence the decisions that they make in the future.

Outcomes in topic books will evidence a broad and balanced history curriculum and demonstrate the children's acquisition of identified key knowledge.

Pupils in EYFS are assessed against the Early Learning Goals Past and Present. Children at the expected level of development will:

- Talk about the lives of the people around them and their roles in society;
- Know some similarities and differences between things in the past and now,
- drawing on their experiences and what has been read in class;
- Understand the past through settings, characters and events encountered in books read in class and storytelling;

At the end of each key phase (KS1/LKS2 and UKS2), assessment is made against the Learning Goal outcomes for History.

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

- Summative assessment of pupil discussions about their learning.
- Interviewing the pupils about their learning (pupil voice).
- Work scrutiny
- Opportunity for a dialogue between teachers to understand their class's work.
- Marking of written work in books.
- Learning walks and classroom displays also inform the quality of learning and understanding that pupils have gained.

