



History Curriculum Statement

Why is History important?

Through History we inspire children's curiosity to learn more about the past. Children learn to make comparisons and links between the past and modern times, discovering how and why things have changed. They learn about people and events in the past, in Britain and the wider world, and understand how these have influenced our lives today. Children consider how our actions today will shape our future.

What is History like at St. George's Central CE Primary School?

At St. George's Central we equip children to ask perceptive questions, think critically, weigh evidence, sift arguments and develop perspective and judgement. This helps children to understand the complexities 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. Through the study of local history, children develop an understanding of Britain's past, their local heritage and key historical concepts such as continuity and change, while building a sense of identity and belonging. Children are taught how to investigate and record their findings in interesting and creative ways including writing, art, drama and ICT. History provides valuable opportunities to develop speaking and listening skills. We aim to provide first hand experiences with role play, class trips and workshops playing an important part in topics. These enjoyable, interactive experiences make learning memorable, supporting and enhancing children's learning.

We support the National Curriculum aims for history, seeking 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.

National Curriculum in England, September 2013 (DfE)

In Nursery and Reception we follow the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) curriculum where 'Understanding the world' is one of the specific areas of learning.

'Never settle for less than your best'

Jesus said, 'I am the light of the world. Whoever follows Me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life.' John 8:12

Ways to explore Spirituality in History

At St. George's Central CE Primary School and Nursery we believe that our curriculum should provide opportunities for children to develop a love of learning, so that they go on to make a positive difference to themselves, their community and the wider world. We have developed a definition of what we believe Spirituality is:

'Spirituality is...an understanding of how beliefs, values and experiences shape the identity of individuals, their spiritual disciplines and connections with life.'

Our history curriculum provides opportunities for spiritual development through/by:

- Exploring the human experience through questioning why people made certain choices and how they gave their lives meaning.
- Understanding the beliefs and worldviews of others, enabling children to appreciate diverse points of view with reflection and empathy.
- Considering how things would be different if the course of events had been changed.
- By studying local history and making personal connections to the past.
- Encountering awe and wonder and reflecting on the lessons we can learn from the past.

Opportunities to celebrate History at St. George's Central CE Primary School and Nursery

Remembrance services, Black History Month celebrations, visitors in school, quality texts in the library, trips linked to history topics studied, exploring and celebrating the history and heritage of the local area.

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