



Federation of St Mary's Priory Catholic Infant and Junior Schools

www.stmarysrcpriory.haringey.sch.uk

History Policy

January 2017

What is History?

History is about events that have taken place in the past, whether it was yesterday, last week, 100 years ago or prehistory. It is also about people (from this country and around the world) their actions, the consequences of their actions and the evidence that remains. It is about the changes that have occurred over time, and the causes and results of these changes. History is about the relationship between the past and present.

The Aims of Teaching History:

- 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 enable children to know about significant events in British history, and to appreciate how these events have shaped Britain over time.
- To know about and recognise significant British people, who have had a positive impact on both Britain and the wider world.
- To develop a sense of chronology.
- To have some knowledge and understanding of the historical development in the wider world.
- To help children understand society and their place within it, so that they have a sense of their own cultural identity.
- To develop in children the skills of enquiry, investigation, analysis, interpretation, problem solving and evaluation.
- To enable children to think critically and thus form their own opinions, which can be backed up with historical knowledge.

Teaching and Learning KS1 and KS2:

History is taught half termly throughout the school from years 1-6. Teachers follow a system of planning that covers the objectives outlined within the New

National Curriculum. All the teachers recognise the value of cross-curricular learning, and therefore try to link their history topics (where appropriate) with both core and foundation subjects. Teachers are also encouraged to take their children on visits to museums and sights of historical importance, to deepen children's learning and passion of history.

Once a term the children also embark on a 'British Week'. The subject of these 'British Week's' change every term, giving the children the opportunity to learn about local and national history, including significant people, events and landmarks. Alongside this, the children also study 'Black History Month' and 'Chinese New Year'. These studies may take the form of research activities, workshops and educational visits.

As a school, we are trying to move away from using lots of worksheets and are introducing a minimum of one extended piece of writing per history topic.

Foundation Stage:

History is taught in both the Reception and Nursery classes as part of their topic work throughout the year. As the Reception and Nursery classes are part of the Foundation Stage, their history work is linked to the objectives set out in the Early Learning Goals. The history taught, through whole-class, focused and independent activities, makes a significant contribution to the children's understanding of the world.

Inclusion:

All pupils, including those with special educational needs, should undertake the full range of activities for each history topic. Teacher assessment should determine the depth to which individuals/groups should perform in each topic.

Assessment:

Teachers will assess children's learning by making an informal judgement during lessons, on whether or not a child has achieved that lesson's learning intention. This assessment can be used by the teacher to inform their future planning but is not expected to be recorded anywhere. Teachers can also measure children's learning by the work produced and recorded in their exercise books, alongside questioning the children and determining whether they have a good level of understanding of a history topic. No formal assessments are required at the end of topic.

At the end of each academic year, class teachers include within their written annual report to parents, a statement about their child's learning/knowledge of history.

Resources:

History resources will be kept in labelled boxes in the Topic area of the Resource Cupboard (upstairs in the junior building). It is the responsibility of the teachers

undertaking history work to ensure that resources are returned complete, with no resources lost, missing or incomplete. If part of a resource has been lost or damaged, the teacher should inform the Topic Lead.

Review date:

Lisa Murphy
Topic Lead