

" The more you know about the past, the better prepared you are for the future. "

Theodore Roosevelt

" History means literally, investigation." - Arnold Toynbee

" The work of today is the history of tomorrow, and we are it's makers." - Juliette Gordon Low

## St Paul's Church of England Junior School

# History Policy Statement

### July 2020

History is the process of enquiry. It is the search for, examination of and recording of evidence. Quality teaching and learning in History allows children to weigh up and interpret different types of evidence. History is not a process of learning and reiterating literal facts. History is describing and explaining the past. Children will have synthesised the narrative and argument and interpreted evidence in order to help them do so. History is not presenting the past as a series of uncontested truths. History is the product of imaginative reconstruction. Because the evidence is often fragmentary and incomplete, children need to imagine how it might have been and use evidence to fill the gaps. History is about speculation and hypothesising, but supported with evidence. History is not closed comprehension and copying.

#### Our Aims

*At St Paul's CofE VC Junior School we aim to:*

- ✓ make learning in history a meaningful, interactive and enjoyable experience;
- ✓ fuel children's interest in the past, developing an understanding that allows them to access the history around them;
- ✓ teach children to develop critical analytical skills when interpreting evidence;
- ✓ encourage children to think as historians through the skills which they are taught;
- ✓ provide the children with a range of site visits to enrich their understanding of history;
- ✓ ensure that links are made with other subjects therefore strengthening and enriching learning across the curriculum;
- ✓ meet the requirements of the National Curriculum 2014;
- ✓ enrich the worship and the Christian ethos of the school;
- ✓ identify able pupils and provide an appropriate challenging and supportive environment for their learning;
- ✓ to provide support and appropriate resources for pupils with special educational needs so that they may succeed in their learning;
- ✓ to provide support for disadvantaged children to access learning.

#### Why we teach History:

*History is taught at St Paul's CofE Junior School in order to develop key historical skills and concepts. Through the teaching of history children will learn:*

- ✓ the chronology of British history, including the duration, length and overlap of significant events;
- ✓ to know how Britain has been influenced by the wider world;
- ✓ to identify characteristic features of periods and societies (including ancient civilisations) such as their beliefs, ideas and the experiences of the people;
- ✓ to understand historical concepts such as 'continuity', 'change', 'cause', 'consequence', 'similarity', 'difference' and 'significance';
- ✓ to gain and deploy a historically grounded understanding of abstract terms such as 'civilisation', 'empire', 'peasantry' and 'parliament';
- ✓ to recognise that the past is interpreted and represented in different ways. Children will be able to give reasons for this;
- ✓ to use a range of sources to find out about the past;
- ✓ to identify and describe reasons for and results of historical events, changes and situations;

- ✓ to describe and make links between the main events, situations and changes within and across periods studied;
- ✓ to ask and answer questions. Select information relevant to the focus of an enquiry.

## **Our Strategies**

### **Our Strategies**

*At St Paul's CofE VC Junior School we employ a wide range of strategies to meet the individual needs of our pupils in history by providing:*

- ✓ access to a wide range of high quality history resources;
- ✓ a scheme of work and medium term plans in each year group based on the National Curriculum 2014 programmes of study that ensures progression of skills and makes rich and relevant links within our existing project structure;
- ✓ an integrated curriculum with clear and relevant links made to English, Geography, Computing, Music, Art and Dance;
- ✓ opportunities to experiment with and explore a wide range of historical artefacts – primary and secondary sources – to allow children to make discoveries for themselves;
- ✓ activities that challenge thinking and pre-conceptions and provide children with a better understanding of the past;
- ✓ opportunities to experience first-hand life in the past through themed 'drama days' related to year group topics;
- ✓ chances to visit a range of key historical sites in order to introduce, consolidate and enrich the children's understanding of the topic;
- ✓ opportunities to enhance learning in history through visitors will be taken where appropriate;
- ✓ suitable computing and drama activities to both support and enhance learning;
- ✓ well-planned focused tasks which encompass a variety of teaching and learning styles, with a particular emphasis on visual learners;

*History in St Paul's Junior CofE VC School will focus on enabling children to:*

- ✓ develop knowledge of chronology and accurately using the associated vocabulary;
- ✓ identify characteristic features of the periods studied and their significance to that time period and over time;
- ✓ understand cause and consequence and become able to assess and rank the significance of the impact over time;
- ✓ make connections and contrasts between trends over time;
- ✓ recognise and understand bias in sources of evidence;
- ✓ use a wide range of sources to find out about the past;
- ✓ select and use information appropriate to the enquiry, drawing their own conclusions about the past;
- ✓ present their findings in a variety of ways.

## **Our Resources**

*To further enrich the History curriculum at St Paul's CofE VC Junior School, we will:*

- ✓ use the ICT network to access to multimedia resources such the Internet;
- ✓ utilise the school library and all classrooms for a wide range of books for both staff and pupils to refer to and use in the classroom to support learning.
- ✓ further resource our access to historic text via the local library and Somerset's Museum Loans
- ✓ access planning resources packs from Somerset County Council for the most up-to-date history topics, including the use of topic theme boxes and costumes from Resources for Learning.

## **Our History Leader**

*The member of staff responsible for the leadership and development of history throughout the school is Vicki Clark. She will:*

- ✓ seek to enthuse pupils and staff about history and promote high standards of achievement and high quality provision;
- ✓ advise and support staff in the planning, delivery and assessment of history;
- ✓ manage and develop resources for history;
- ✓ monitor and evaluate history throughout the school, ensuring continuity and progression;
- ✓ keep up to date with current developments by attending courses, liaising with colleagues from other schools, and use this as a basis for staff development activities;

- ✓ continue to promote and raise the profile of history throughout the school.

### **Assessment, Record Keeping and Reporting**

*Assessment will be linked to the key skills in the study unit. In order to ensure continuity, progression and high standards of achievement in history, assessment for every child will include:*

- ✓ ongoing formative assessment through observations and dialogue with children – to form basis for individual targets / 'next steps';
- ✓ abilities and allowing demonstration of understanding;
- ✓ a sample of skills based assessment throughout the Key Stage to demonstrate progression in each area;
- ✓ a summative assessment of each child's progress in history over the year will be provided in their end of year report;
- ✓ a subject leader's assessment portfolio to showcase the range of activities and learning which fulfil the aims of this policy;
- ✓ pupil interviews with a selection of pupils across year groups.

### **SEN, Pupil premium & Greater depth in History at St Paul's CofE VC Junior School**

*At St Paul's CofE VC Junior School we aim to:*

- ✓ provide visual and concrete resources to support children with SEN to ensure an inclusive approach to the subject;
- ✓ support and extend children through the use of history technologies (ICT) and adult support;
- ✓ deepen children's knowledge by asking non-routine questions within the topic of focus and providing high-level questioning for the children to explore;
- ✓ set tasks which will allow children to work at a greater depth to their peers with greater independence and ownership of tasks.

### **Parental Involvement:**

*At St Paul's CofE VC Junior School, we will encourage parental involvement by:*

- ✓ encouraging parents to attend the meet the teacher evenings
- ✓ providing Knowledge Organisers for parents
- ✓ parent and carers will also be expected to assist their children with any homework/topics
- ✓ suitable video links and resources for use on the website
- ✓ History weeks and celebrating history
- ✓ Support with trips to places that enrich the history units of work

### **Our Success Criteria**

*We expect 90% of our children to attain standards in line with or above those stated in the statutory guidance.*