



History Policy

Rationale

At Whitchurch C of E Primary School, it is our aim to instill a love and an understanding of the importance of history in all of our children and so we work hard to provide an interesting, ambitious and varied curriculum that excites and intrigues our children whilst meeting the needs of all backgrounds, cultures and abilities.

Our intent is that our teaching of history will help our children gain a coherent knowledge and understanding of Britain's past and that of the wider world. We aim to enable them to ask perceptive questions, think critically, weigh evidence, sift arguments, and develop perspective and judgement. Through the teaching of history we endeavour to teach our children to understand the complexity of people's lives, the process of change and the diversity of societies and relationships between different groups. Furthermore, we aim to help them to explore their own identity and the history of their local area, inspiring their curiosity to know more about the past as they go into their own future.

Making a difference is key to our History learning at Whitchurch C of E primary School and our intent is summed up in this quote :-

'The past is intelligible to us only in the light of the present and we can fully understand the present only in the light of the past. To enable man to understand the society of the past, and to increase his mastery over the society of the present, is the dual function of history.' - E H Carr

Aims of the History Curriculum

- *To develop an interest in the past and an appreciation of human achievements and aspirations;*
- *To understand the values of our society;*
- *To learn about the major issues and events in the history of our own country and of the world and how these events may have influenced one another;*
- *To develop knowledge of chronology within which the children can organise their understanding of the past;*

Whitchurch Church of England Primary School



- *To enable children to know about significant events in British history and to appreciate how things have changed over time.*
- *Children develop a range of skills and abilities - particularly those related to finding out about the past, explaining what happened and what people then and now think about what happened.*

Implementation of Policy

Teaching of History

At Whitchurch C E Primary School the teaching and learning of history focuses on enabling children to think as historians.

We have created a well-sequenced and progressive curriculum map containing the key concepts children need to be procedurally fluent in, to work and think like historians.

The key concepts in history we plan a progression for are as follows:

- *Historical interpretation*
- *Knowledge and understanding of events, people and changes in the past*
- *Chronological understanding*
- *Historical understanding*

At Whitchurch C E Primary School we enable children to find out about the past from a range of sources – using primary and secondary sources, handling artefacts, making use of local area and visits to museums and sites of historical significance.

At Whitchurch C E Primary School we develop children's understanding and skills in looking at and interpreting evidence including recognising that the past can be represented in different ways.

At Whitchurch C E Primary School we develop skills of research and note taking and to present findings in a variety of ways such as in written, oral or pictorial form as well as using ICT.

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At Whitchurch C E Primary School we teach children to identify why people did things, the main characteristics of different societies at different times including links between times studied.

At Whitchurch C E Primary teachers are responsible for including all or part of the four key elements of history into their topics.

Teaching Styles

At Whitchurch C E Primary School history is taught through a cross-curricular thematic approach and we link history to as many subjects as well as ensuring no tenuous link is made.

At Whitchurch C E Primary School history contributes significantly to the teaching of English in our school by actively promoting the skills of reading, writing, speaking and listening. Some of the texts that we use in the literacy lessons are historical in nature.

Children develop oracy through discussing historical questions or presenting their findings to the rest of the class. They develop their writing ability by composing reports and letters and through using writing frames.

At Whitchurch C E Primary School we use ICT in history teaching where appropriate. Children use ICT in history to enhance their skills in data handling and in presenting written work, and they research information using the Internet.

At Whitchurch C E Primary School history contributes significantly to the teaching of personal, social, citizenship and health education. Children develop self-confidence by having opportunities to explain their views on a number of social questions such as how society should respond to poverty and homelessness. They discover how to be active citizens in a democratic society by learning how laws are made and changed, and they learn how to recognize and challenge stereotypes and to appreciate that racism is a harmful

Whitchurch Church of England Primary School



aspect of society. They learn how society is made up of people from different cultures and start to develop tolerance and respect for others.

At Whitchurch C E Primary School the teaching of history contributes to spiritual development though empathy for others.

Early Years Foundation Stage

At Whitchurch C E Primary School history makes a significant contribution to the development of each child's understanding of the world. We provide activities such as examining photos of themselves at birth and looking for change over time, using stories that introduce a sense of time and people from the past, comparing artefacts from different times e.g. teddies, and making the most of opportunities to value children's histories from their own and other cultures.

In the reception classes history is taught as an integral part of topic work covered during the year. In the EYFS history is about having the opportunities to find out and learn about the world they live in and discover the meaning of new and old in relation to their own lives. The history side of the children's work is related to the Knowledge and Understanding of the World objectives set out in the EYFS Curriculum.

Key Stage 1

At Whitchurch C E Primary School during key stage 1 children learn about people's lives and lifestyles from the more recent past. They listen and respond to stories and use sources of information to help them ask and answer questions. They learn how the past is different from the present. Children begin to learn about the more distant past through topics that have a direct connection to our local area. They use the primary resources available to help them understand a life very different from their own.

Whitchurch Church of England Primary School



Key Stage 2

At Whitchurch C E Primary School during key stage 2 children learn about significant people, events and places from both recent and more distant past. They learn about change and continuity in their own area, in Britain and in other parts of the world. They look at history in a variety of ways, for example from political, economic, technological and scientific, social, religious, cultural or aesthetic perspectives. They use different sources of information to help them investigate the past both in depth and in overview, using dates and historical vocabulary to describe events, people and developments. They also learn that the past can be represented and interpreted in different ways.

Strategies for the teaching of History

At Whitchurch C E Primary School the predominant mode of teaching involves working in groups (whole class introduction with differentiated tasks), although individual work and class history teaching are used where appropriate within this structure. We use the six step enquiry approach: hook, collecting information, making sense of ideas, drawing conclusions, checking understanding and producing a final product.

The six step enquiry approach encourages children to take an active role in their learning and provide opportunities for them to develop the key skills of communication as well as improve their own learning performance. History is celebrated throughout the school through displays, presentations of work to other members of the school and focus history week.

History Subject Leaders Role

At Whitchurch C E Primary School the role of the history subject leader is to ensure continuity and progression in the teaching and learning of history.

Whitchurch Church of England Primary School



- *Create a well progressive history curriculum map, monitor its implementation and assess the impact in terms progress children make.*
- *Developing good practice in their own classroom and sharing good practice across the school*
- *Monitoring and evaluating the implementation of the history curriculum map*
- *Co-ordinating and ordering resources and managing the budget*
- *Monitoring and evaluating resources*
- *Monitoring planning and the delivery of the curriculum*
- *Working together with colleagues to raise standards*
- *Providing stimulus and inspiration*
- *Ensuring that the policy documents remain useful and current*
- *Organising and supporting in-service training in line with the SDP*
- *Yearly history audit and action plan*

Citizenship

At Whitchurch C E Primary School we encourage children to become aware of their role as a citizen. We seek to develop children's concepts and attitudes towards right and wrong, in line with the spiritual ethos of the school.

Resources

At Whitchurch C E Primary School there is a wide range of resources to support the teaching and learning of history both inside and outside the school.

In school there are topic linked boxes of resources kept in the outside resources cupboard.

Teachers are encouraged to make use of the resources outside the school through visits to historical sites and museums. We subscribe to the Hampshire Wardrobe and the Hampshire History Centre and resources can be borrowed from them.

Whitchurch Church of England Primary School



Assessment and Recording

At Whitchurch C E Primary assessment is in line with the schools assessment policy. Teachers are expected to assess at the end of each unit against the end points outlined on the history curriculum map for each year group and key concept.

Monitoring of history takes place throughout the school by:

- *Observations of individual lessons.*
- *Monitoring of tracker children's books.*
- *Discussions with both adults and children.*
- *Monitoring of classes black record files.*
- *Looking at classroom displays.*
- *Whole schoolbook scrutiny days.*

Inclusion

At Whitchurch C E Primary School all children have access to history lessons and activities regardless of age, sex or ability. Teaching approaches provide equality of opportunity by making sure the work is suitable for both boys and girls, taking into account religious and cultural beliefs and enabling those with disabilities to have full participation.

Disability Equality Impact Assessment

This policy has been written with reference to and in consideration of the school's *Disability Equality Scheme*. Assessment will include consideration of issues identified by the involvement of disabled children, staff and parents and any information the school holds on disabled children, staff and parents.

Whitchurch Church of England Primary School



Any questions or concerns regarding this policy should be made to the Head Teacher