



St Cuthbert's Catholic Primary School

History Policy

God made us all unique
To learn, live and grow
To show care, concern and friendship
To be the best we can
Showing Christ's love in all we do.

History Policy

Rationale

At St Cuthbert's Catholic Primary School, we aim to stimulate children's interest in and understanding about the life of people who lived in the past and ways in which it differs from the present. We believe that learning about the past helps children to make sense of the world in which they live and to develop analytical thinking.

We believe that the study of history makes a valuable contribution to their understanding of all aspects of life giving a sense of identity and heritage. Therefore, we aim for a high-quality history curriculum that has been carefully designed and sequenced to equip our children with a secure, coherent knowledge of British, local and world history. Our curriculum content is knowledge and vocabulary rich, in a sequenced chronological order, allowing children to develop their understanding of abstract concepts as they move through school.

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;*
- *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.*
- *To enable children to communicate their view points in a variety of ways using appropriate vocabulary.*
- *To foster enjoyment, empathy and curiosity for finding out about the past.*

Implementation of Policy

Teaching of History

At St Cuthbert's Catholic Primary School, the teaching and learning of history focuses on enabling children to think as historians.

We have used the best research to create a well sequenced and progressive curriculum map containing the key concepts children need to be procedurally fluent in, to work, think and write 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*

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.

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 St Cuthbert's Catholic 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. As well as writing in a range of genres in history, we are also developing the children's skills of writing as an historian using PEE paragraphs which require the children to make a point, back their point up with evidence and then explain it. This style of writing helps to prepare children for studying discrete subjects once they move up to KS3. As with writing in all subjects at St Cuthbert's, children have access to a large bank of vocabulary; planning and writing frames and scaffolds and writing is taught using a range of strategies such as shared, modelled, guided and independent writing.

We teach children to identify why people did things, the main characteristics of different societies at different times including links between times studied.

At St Cuthbert's Catholic Primary School, teachers are responsible for including the four key elements of history into their topics.

Teaching Styles

At St Cuthbert's Catholic Primary School, history is taught through a cross-curricular thematic approach in Key Stage 1 and we link history to as many subjects ensuring no tenuous link is made. In Key Stage 2 history is taught as a discrete subject.

At St Cuthbert's Catholic Primary School, history contributes significantly to the teaching of English in our school by actively promoting the skills of reading, writing, speaking and listening. In order to develop children's reading skills, our teachers plan opportunities for children to independently read age-appropriate texts that link to the history topic being studied. We have invested in supporting our history topics with new books for each topic studied. Studies show that if children encounter new knowledge within a narrative, they are more likely to retain that knowledge. Therefore, when possible, History units of work will be delivered alongside thematically linked novels during English lessons.

Children develop oracy through discussing historical questions or presenting their findings to the rest of the class.

At St Cuthbert's Catholic Primary School, history teaching contributes to the teaching of mathematics in a variety of ways. Children learn to use numbers when developing a sense of chronology through doing activities such as timelines. Children learn to interpret information presented in graphical or diagrammatic form.

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

When teaching history, we contribute to the children's spiritual development where possible. The history programme of study enables children to understand that Britain's rich cultural heritage can be further enriched by the multi-cultural British society of today.

Early Years Foundation Stage

At St Cuthbert's Catholic 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 Nursery and 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 St Cuthbert's Catholic 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 a variety of topics – some of which 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.

Key Stage 2

At St Cuthbert's Catholic 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 St Cuthbert's Catholic Primary School, the predominant mode of teaching involves whole class teaching, working in groups and working individually. The emphasis on our teaching of history is on both primary experience as well as using secondary sources.

We encourage children to take an active role in their learning and provide opportunities for children to develop the key skills of communication as well as improve their own learning performance. History is celebrated throughout the school through displays and presentations of work to other members of the school.

History Subject Leaders Role

At St Cuthbert's Catholic Primary School, the role of the history subject leader is to ensure continuity and progression in the teaching and learning of history.

- *Create a well progressive history curriculum map, monitor its implementation and assess the impact in terms of 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 St Cuthbert's Catholic Primary School, we encourage children to become aware of their role as a citizen. During history lessons we encourage children to reflect on and discuss the moral and social issues that arise in lessons. Through this we seek to develop children's concepts and attitudes towards right and wrong, in line with the spiritual ethos of the school.

Resources

At St Cuthbert's Catholic Primary School, there is a wide range of resources to support the teaching and learning of history.

In school there are topic linked boxes of resources kept in the history cupboard. Each class also has a range of books (both fiction and non-fiction) linked to each history topic. These books are available for children to use and read.

Teachers are encouraged to make use of the resources outside the school through visits to historical sites and museums.

Assessment and Recording

At St Cuthbert's Catholic Primary School, assessment is in line with the schools assessment policy. We assess the children's work in history by using Assessment for Learning strategies during lessons. In Key Stage 2, once the children complete a unit of work, they complete an assessed task. At the end of the academic year, we make a summary judgement for children and consider whether they have yet to obtain, obtained or exceeded the end of year expectations outlined on the history curriculum map. Class teachers keep the children's history work in the topic folders/books. In Key Stage 2, history books are passed on from year to year.

Monitoring and Evaluation

Monitoring of history takes place throughout the school by:

- *Learning walks and providing feedback.*
- *Environment walks.*
- *Monitoring of children's books.*
- *Discussions with both adults and children.*
- *Looking at classroom displays.*
- *Reviewing resource provision.*

Inclusion

At St Cuthbert's Catholic 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.

Any questions or concerns regarding this policy should be made to Carolyn Ferguson or Anne Bullerwell.