



St Peter's CE Primary School

History Curriculum Statement



The aim of history teaching at St. Peter's is to stimulate the children's interest and understanding about the life of people who lived in the past in Britain from the earliest times to the present day and in the wider world. In our school, we teach children to understand how events in the past have influenced and shaped our lives today; to investigate these past events and, by so doing, to develop the skills of enquiry.

In history, children build their factual knowledge while also focussing on the purpose and aims of study from the national curriculum. By returning to key concepts over and over (such as chronology, investigating and interpreting evidence in history), through the use of knowledge mats, they gradually build their understanding of them.

Timelines feature in every history-based topic and in most geography-based topics. This ensures children are consistently revisiting and developing their skills in chronology and the ability to place new learning in context with prior learning.

At St. Peter's, we believe history has to be tangible and as a result have many visits and visitors bringing history to life. These events range from spending the day as a Viking at Tatton Park, to hearing 'first-hand' about the life and experiences of Florence Nightingale.

The history topics studied from year 3-6 are chronological and each topic will build upon the last. The children, are continually reminded of what they have already learnt and how it has an impact on what they are studying. Our history topics, have been carefully selected to ensure aspects are revisited across year groups.

We teach the knowledge, skills and understanding set out in the National Curriculum and use a range of sources to ensure the most creative approach can be sourced for the particular area being studied.

We complete a pre-learning session the half term before a new topic to spark an interest for the children. This is done through a 'graffiti wall' and allows children to reflect on anything they already know about the topic or identify any links they have already made to prior learning.

Graffiti walls are completed three times throughout a topic to show the build-up of knowledge progression. They are used alongside knowledge mats so children can revise prior learning and make links and comparisons between current and previous topics.

Most National Curriculum objectives are revisited in each group and the Medium-Term Plans for each topic will show the progression being followed.



We recognise the fact that in all classes there are children of widely-different abilities and seek to provide suitable learning opportunities for all children by matching the challenge of the task to the ability of the child.

The aims of history in our school are:

- 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 understand historical concepts such as continuity and change, cause and consequences, similarity, difference and significance and use them to make comparisons, draw contrasts, analyse trends and create their own structured account including written narrative and analyses.
- to enable children to know about significant events in British history, to appreciate how people's lives have shaped the nation and how Britain has influenced and been influenced by the wider world
- to develop a sense of chronology by understanding where new time periods learnt fit in with prior learning on a timeline.
- to understand how Britain is part of a wider European culture and to study some aspects of European history
- to have some knowledge and understanding of historical development in the wider world
- to help children understand society and their place within it, so that they develop a sense of their cultural heritage
- to gain and deploy a historically grounded understanding of abstract terms eg. Empire, parliament, civilisation and peasantry.
- to develop in children the skills of historical enquiry; evidence based historical claims, contrasting arguments, investigation, analysis, evaluation and presentation

In EYFS, we teach history as an integral part of the topic work covered during the year. We relate the history side of the children's work to the objectives set out in the Early Learning Goals (ELGs) which underpin the curriculum planning for children aged three to five. History makes a significant contribution to the ELG objectives of developing a child's knowledge and understanding of the world through activities such as dressing up in historical costumes, looking at pictures of famous people in history or discovering the meaning of new and old in relation to their own lives.