



History at St Jude's

Introduction

The aim of History teaching here at St Jude's is to stimulate the children's interest and understanding about the life of people who lived in the past. We teach children a sense of chronology and through this they develop a sense of identity, and a cultural understanding based on their historical heritage. Thus, they learn to value their own and other people's cultures in modern multicultural Britain and, by considering how people lived in the past, they are better able to make their own life choices today.

Intent

At St Jude's, we believe history makes a significant contribution to citizenship education by teaching about how Britain developed as a democratic society. We teach children to understand how events in the past have influenced our lives today; we also teach them to investigate these past events and, by so doing, to develop the skills of enquiry, analysis, interpretation and problem solving. We strive to create pupils who think like historians, who develop a rich substantive and disciplinary knowledge. We believe that learning is a change in long term memory. We believe children learn best by having opportunities to revisit previous learning. Therefore, we teach history termly, allowing children to build on their previous knowledge so that the children can fully immerse themselves and have opportunities to reflect and build on prior learning. Our long-term plan allows each class to develop their prior learning from the previous year.

The objectives of teaching 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 learn new vocabulary – understanding what these words mean and to use them in context
- To enable children to know about significant events in British history and to appreciate how things have changed over time
- To develop a sense of chronology
- To know and understand how the British system of democratic government has developed and in so doing, to contribute to a child's citizenship education
- To understand how Britain is part of a wider European culture, and to study some aspects of world 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 develop in children the skills of enquiry, investigation, analysis, evaluation and presentation.
- To communicate historical information in a variety of ways including writing at length

Implementation

Our History curriculum design is based on principles derived from evidence through cognitive science:

- Learning is most effective with spaced repetition.
- Retrieval of previously learnt content is frequent and regular, which increases both storage and retrieval strength.

At St. Jude's, we use a range of retrieval techniques to allow children to embed what they have learnt. Our content is subject specific. We make intra-curricular links to strengthen schemas. Reading, writing, speaking and listening skills are further promoted in History.

Skills and Techniques

As well as learning historical vocabulary, dates and facts, the children will also build on the curriculum substantive knowledge and disciplinary knowledge using sharper methods of enquiry and communication, wider more detailed and chronologically secure knowledge and developing and using greater independence in applying all these qualities. We teach:-

- **Chronological knowledge/understanding**
- **Historical terms**
- **Historical enquiry – using evidence/communicating ideas**
- **Interpretations of history**
- **Continuity and change in and between periods**
- **Cause and consequence**
- **Similarity/difference within a period/situation**
- **Significance of events/people**

These techniques are repeated throughout the years, so that the children can build upon and refine their skills in each area. Learning is also transferable, meaning our children can apply what they have learnt to other subject areas which will stand them in good stead later in life.

In the Early Year Foundation Stage, History makes a significant contribution to developing a child's knowledge and understanding of the world. We do this through activities such as through activities such as finding out and talking about the past and present of their own lives and those of their family and discovering the meaning of vocabulary ('new' and 'old', for example) in relation to their own lives. This is enhanced further, by providing the children with an enabling environment, where children use their own curiosity to explore and investigate the world around them.

Throughout KS1 and KS2 children will have the opportunity to make links with other topics across the curriculum.

Impact

