



## History

*"If you don't know history, then you don't know anything. You are a leaf that doesn't know it is part of a tree." – Michael Crichton*

### **Intent**

At St. Wilfrid's Catholic Primary school our History curriculum includes termly and half termly units for all children from Year 1 to Year 6. In the Early Years Foundation Stage, History is taught through Knowledge and Understanding of the World in short discreet, often weekly topics.

We aim to prepare children by helping them to gain a coherent knowledge and understanding of Britain's past and that of the wider world, through offering a high-quality history education. Our high quality curriculum inspires our pupils' curiosity to know more about the past. Our teaching equips pupils to ask perceptive questions, think critically, weigh evidence, sift arguments, and develop perspective and judgement.

History helps pupils to understand the complexity of people's lives, the process of change, the diversity of societies and relationships between different groups. It also helps children gain a sense of their own identity within a social, political, cultural and economic background. Because of this, we feel it is important for the History to link closely with other subjects, to deliver a broad and balanced curriculum. Our History lessons are taught discretely as well as incorporated within other curriculum subjects such as English and Art.

### **Implementation**

At St Wilfrid's Catholic primary our History curriculum aims to excite children and allow them to develop their own skills as Historians. We encourage regular references to timelines and how topics fit together, as well as a hands-on approach involving artefacts and outreach programmes, where appropriate, to bring History alive to our young learners.

Our thematic approach allows opportunities for cross curricular links to be made, to ensure our children have many occasions where by they can apply their knowledge and understanding. We have identified key knowledge and skills of each topic and consideration has been given to ensure progression across topics throughout each year group across the school. By the end of Year 6, our children will have a chronological understanding of British History from the Stone Age to the present day. They are able to draw comparisons and make connections between different time periods and their own lives. Interlinked with this are studies of world history, such as the ancient civilisations of Greece and the Mayans.

### **Our History curriculum includes:**

- Timeline that include add-ons from previous years teaching. Using timelines as a teaching strategy helps students construct an understanding of historical events over time, even our youngest students.
- Using artefacts as a WOW to the start of a unit as well as throughout the topic. This encourages our children to become history detectives by getting them to think about what the artefact is for, where it is from and how old it is. Artefacts help children to question and understand the past.
- Outreach intervention: inviting people into school to talk about; demonstrate or re-enact aspects or periods in history has the effect of bringing history alive to our children and provides them with a more visual view of the topic they are covering.
- Use of ICT to support learning and make the curriculum accessible for everyone.
- Make sure as many women as men are studied.

## **Impact**

At St Wilfrid's Catholic Primary School, outcomes in History and literacy books evidence a broad and balanced History curriculum and demonstrate the children's acquisition of identified key knowledge. Children review the agreed successes at the end of every session and are actively encouraged to identify their own target areas, with support from their teachers. Children also record what they have learned comparative to their starting points at the end of every unit.

Emphasis is placed on analytical thinking and questioning which helps pupils gain a coherent knowledge and understanding of Britain's past and that of the wider world and are curious to know more about the past. Through this study our children learn to ask perceptive questions, think critically, weigh evidence, sift arguments, and develop perspective and judgement.

The impact of our History curriculum is that children will know more, remember more and understand more about History. Children will understand and use the key skills of chronological understanding, knowledge and understanding of events in the past, historical interpretation, historical enquiry and organisation and communication. The large majority of our children will achieve age related expectations in History. As historians, our children will learn lessons from history to influence the decisions they make in their lives in the future.