

History Policy



Vision

At St. Thomas' C of E Academy, our curriculum is built upon our mission statement, to enable all children to "Grow, learn and shine together with God". We inspire children to be 'Active Learners' and 'Creative Thinkers' through the use of the 'St Thomas' 10 Star Learning behaviours' and the 'St Thomas' 'Ds'.

Intent

At St. Thomas' we aim for all our children to develop a love of History by inspiring curiosity about the past. They will be taught skills that will enable them to develop a coherent knowledge and understanding of both British history and that of the wider world whilst establishing a sense of chronology. An enquiry-based approach will equip children with the skills to ask and answer historical valid questions, make connections, draw contrasts and understand how interpretations of the past have been constructed. This will be underpinned through the use of primary and secondary sources. We aim to foster a sense of self and a deeper understanding of cultural, economic, social, political, and religious history. Children will be equipped to understand how events in the past have influenced our modern world and consider how they can be used to make informed decisions today.

Our curriculum is designed so that children:



- ✚ feel confident to talk about significant figures, events and periods in history, their impact and how they fit into a historical timeline.
- ✚ use key vocabulary linked to the historical focus being explored and make connections between different periods of history they have studied.
- ✚ can use of a range of sources and artefacts to research historical enquiry questions enabling them to draw conclusions about the past and make comparisons between different periods of history.
- ✚ can communicate their historical knowledge and evaluate what they have learnt

We aim to provide a broad and balanced education, which allows students to become successful learners who enjoy learning, make rapid and sustained progress and achieve the very best. History is planned in such a way as to encourage full and active participation of all pupils, enabling them to become historians who confidently attain historical knowledge and can talk about the past.

Implementation

At St Thomas' CE Academy, we are committed to teaching high quality History lessons that meet the aims of our pupils. Our carefully designed curriculum ensures a progression of key concepts, knowledge, and skills both within and across each year group in EYFS, Key Stage One and Key Stage Two. Children enjoy one history unit each term. Each unit of work is well planned and progressive and our teaching of History focuses on enabling pupils to think as historians. We understand the importance of examining historical sources and artefacts and we give the children the opportunity to take part in historical visits to sites of significance and engage in first-hand experiences. We also encourage visits from visitors and historians to talk about their knowledge and experiences of the past. We understand the importance of stories in history teaching and we use this as an important way to stimulate interest in the past.

Children are taught to:

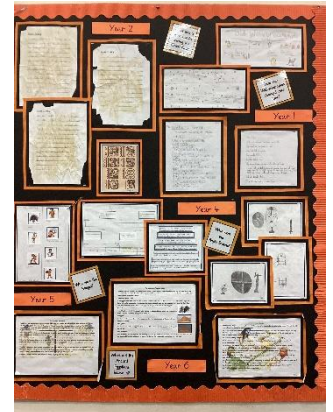
- ✚ understand history as a chronological narrative from the earliest times to the modern world today.
- ✚ understand how peoples' lives have been shaped by past events and how Britain has been influenced by the wider world.
- ✚ broaden their vocabulary and develop their ability to understand new concepts that are introduced to them.
- ✚ understand historical concepts such as continuity and change, cause and consequence, similarity, difference, and significance and use them to make connections and identify contrasts between different periods of history.

- ✚ understand that events in history can be interpreted in different ways.
- ✚ develop their own lines of enquiry, asking their own questions about the past.
- ✚ understand the methods of historical enquiry and how evidence is used to make historical claims.
- ✚ use their own research and a range of primary and secondary sources to support their interpretation of the past.
- ✚ present ideas and information using verbal, pictorial, and written forms to a range of audiences.
- ✚ gain historical perspective by placing their growing knowledge into different contexts, understanding the connections between local, regional, national and international history.
- ✚ Make links between cultural, economic, military, political, religious and social history both short and long term.

Cultural Capital

We enhance the curriculum and our children's cultural capital in various ways, for example:

- ✚ Organising educational visits to historical sites including the Black Country Living Museum and local area walks to the Local High Street and Canal system.
- ✚ Organising enrichment days to immerse children in the life of the past such as a Victorian Day.
- ✚ Arranging for visits into school from the school nurse, fire service and representatives from the local historical association.
- ✚ Providing the children with historical artefacts and visual hooks to bring the past to life.



Impact

The teaching of History is of the highest quality at St Thomas'. Planned units will build progressively upon prior knowledge and understanding and our curriculum is designed to ensure children make rapid and sustained progress. Children's progress is assessed informally during each lesson through a range of questioning techniques, whole class and small group discussions and set tasks. As part of the St Thomas' feedback policy, verbal feedback is given to the children regularly and over the shoulder marking happens where necessary so that immediate feedback can be given and acted upon. Children are assessed against the Teacher Assessment Frameworks (TAFs) to identify any gaps that children have in their learning to inform future planning. TAFs support the long-term assessment that teachers make at the end of each academic year.

Curriculum books, pictures, and artwork reflect high quality outcomes. Children can talk confidently about their learning and can remember their learning from earlier within the year or from previous years. Through the teaching of History, we foster an ethos of curiosity and questioning. Our children understand that they are learning History so that can gain an understanding of Britain's past and that of the wider world. History teaching helps pupils understand the process of change over time, the complexity of people's lives, and the diversity of different societies and groups as well as their own sense of self and challenges of their time.