



Intent

The National Curriculum for History aims to ensure that all pupils:

- Know and understand the history of these islands as a coherent, chronological narrative, from the earliest times to the present day: how people's lives have shaped this nation and how Britain has influenced and been influenced by the wider world.
- Know and understand significant aspects of the history of the wider world: the nature of ancient civilisations; the expansion and dissolution of empires; characteristic features of past non-European societies; achievements and follies of mankind.
- Gain and employ a historically grounded understanding of abstract terms such as 'empire', 'civilisation', 'parliament' and 'peasantry'.
- Understand historical concepts such as continuity and change, cause and consequence, similarity, difference and significance, and use them to make connections, draw contrasts, analyse trends, frame historically-valid questions and create their own structured accounts, including written narratives and analyses.
- Understand the methods of historical enquiry, including how evidence is used rigorously to make historical claims, and discern how and why contrasting arguments and interpretations of the past have been constructed.
- Gain historical perspective by placing their growing knowledge into different contexts, understanding the connections between logical, regional, national and international history; between cultural, economic, military, political, religious and social history; and between short – and long-term timescales.

At St James' we believe that History is an essential part of the curriculum. We ensure that children develop their knowledge and understanding of Britain's past and that of the wider world. We offer engaging and interactive History lessons, which develop pupils understanding of the past alongside the language necessary to communicate this coherently and effectively. Our History Curriculum also develops pupils' sense of identity and helps them to understand more about themselves, as members of our community. Pupils learn about the diversity of past human experiences, recognise some of the achievements and challenges of past human societies and consider how these can provide aspirations for living in our contemporary world.

Implementation

History is delivered to children in the Early Years Foundation Stage, through the Foundation Stage Curriculum (Understanding the World – People and Communities). In Key Stage One and Lower Key Stage Two, History is taught through planning linked to the National Curriculum. The units covered in each year can be found on our yearly overview and our progression of skills document. Our History Curriculum, allow for children to develop their language, build upon prior learning and develop a sense of chronology, as they move through the school. We support all pupils to aspire to do their best and challenge themselves to make links and think critically. We develop the following skills, always building on earlier experiences through:

- Developing pupils' curiosity and understanding of past events, places and people;
- Developing an interest in the past and an appreciation of human achievements and by comparing the lives of people in the past with our own, providing aspirations for the future;
- Learning 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 and by developing an understanding of the values of our society;
- Developing a knowledge of chronology within which the children can organise their understanding of the past;
- Supporting pupils to distinguish between historical facts and the interpretation of those facts by asking questions of a variety of sources and by developing the range of skills required to interpret primary and secondary sources;



St James' First School

History Curriculum Overview

- Understanding how the past was different from the present and that people of other times and places may have had different values and attitudes from ours and encouraging pupils to understand and respect the views and cultures of people in the past;
- Understanding that events have a multiplicity of causes and that historical explanation is provisional, debatable and sometimes controversial.

Impact

At St James', we aspire to equip all pupils with historical skills and knowledge to ensure they are ready for the curriculum at Upper Key Stage Two and to broaden their horizons, through developing their knowledge of the wider world in all its diversity. We develop pupils' language and provide investigative and enquiry-based learning opportunities. All children are supported to gain a coherent understanding of Britain's history and that of the wider world and we aim to fire their curiosity to know more about the past. Through History, children learn to ask questions, think critically, evaluate evidence, analyse arguments, and develop perspective, judgement and a sense of identity. Assessment will include oral, practical and written responses from the children to ancillary questions and their final exit question. Records of work can be found in pupil's books and other completed work.