

History Curriculum Statement



Intent:

At Godwin Junior School our approach to the teaching and learning of history is based on the belief that, as well as developing children's understanding of the past, it is important for children to understand how past events influence our lives today.

Our history curriculum aims to deliver knowledge and develop skills in order to provide a lifelong love of history. We strive to inspire a curiosity within our children through an understanding of British history and how it has influenced, and been influenced by, the wider world and know about and understand significant aspects of world history. As part of our Learning Powers Approach, we encourage pupils to pose their own historical questions, think critically, weigh evidence, sift arguments, develop perspective and judgement and support, evaluate and challenge their own and others' views using historical evidence. By exploring a range of artefacts and sources, children learn to investigate and interpret the past and are taught to think and behave as historians and archaeologists.

Implementation:

Our history curriculum will be achieved through a range of varied and exciting approaches, which are designed to engage and challenge all pupils, and deepen their understanding of historical concepts and knowledge. To ensure the Intent is met, a whole school approach to teaching history is as follows:

- The school has an agreed Vision which was drawn up in consultation with the teaching staff and reflects our aims.
- Across the school, children study the key historical concepts of chronology; significance; change and continuity; cause/consequence; and evidential enquiry and interpretation. These are taught within the historical contexts outlined within the National Curriculum (2014).
- Our history curriculum has been designed with the British Values of Democracy, Mutual Respect and Tolerance at its core, with issues like persecution being taught as part of our World War 2 unit. In addition, our curriculum reflects the diversity of our school community and British society
- Lessons are designed following the Medium Term Plan (MTP), which outlines the key knowledge and vocabulary that will be used throughout the unit. In addition, Learning Objectives (from the MTP) are key questions that underpin the learning within the lesson. This also allows for pupils to explain their reasoning and work collaboratively.
- The MTP also outlines opportunities to include wider society, ensuring pupils are learning about history from different viewpoints, recognising the diverse nature of our society.
- Our integrated approach to learning ensures links (where appropriate) are made throughout the other subjects, allowing pupils to reinforce their learning and apply key vocabulary across the curriculum. In English, for example, pupils have the opportunity to write narratives with a historical setting using key knowledge they have acquired in history lessons.
- Prior learning is revisited at the start of each lesson, allowing teachers to revisit and reinforce key concepts or address misconceptions before moving on.

- Key knowledge is outlined on the MTP and is formed as questions for pupils within the lesson. This enables teachers to focus the learning within the lesson and ensures pupils understand the significant knowledge they need to build upon.
- Pupils are assessed on their knowledge and understanding of key concepts within lessons and then at the end of the unit.
- Opportunities to learn outside the traditional classroom setting enable history to flourish as pupils are able to experience a range of educational visits to significant historical sites and museums. In addition, workshops are held at school where children are fully immersed in the time period they are studying
- History is celebrated at our school with competitions being held that not only look at the past, but celebrate moments of living history – like the coronation of King Charles III. These competitions are open-ended and allow pupils to express themselves creatively, ensuring they are accessible for everyone.

Impact:

With our approach to a high-quality history curriculum, we create pupils who are curious, analytical and critical thinkers, with the knowledge and skills to be informed, active global citizens. Our curriculum provides pupils with informative, engaging and memorable history lessons that enable them to engage fully with the world: recognising how the past has shaped the world they are currently living in.

As a result of our ambitious curriculum, our pupils demonstrate a good understanding of historical concepts and improved communication and literacy skills. As a direct consequence of developing their cultural capital, our pupils have a highly developed sense of citizenship and are ready to embrace their responsibilities and opportunities as engaged citizens of Britain and the wider world.