

St Ives Infant & Nursery School - History Statement

'A people without the knowledge of their past history, origin and culture is like a tree without roots.'

Marcus Garvey

Intent

Our history curriculum has been designed to ensure coherence and progression. It has been designed carefully to ensure that it meets all of the requirements set out in The National Curriculum and also that it meets the needs of our children in our school, is relevant to our local context.

Our curriculum is designed to ignite our children's curiosity about the past and allow them to make connections between the past and the present and between local, regional, national and international history. Additionally, thought has been given to ensuring relevance between the past and current issues such as equality, diversity and advancement in technologies.

In each year group there is a local history study so that our children can develop their sense of belonging and understand how the past has shaped their lives today and how their lives will shape the future.

Through our curriculum design and implementation, our children are taught to understand concepts such as continuity and change, cause and consequence, similarity and difference, and significance and use them to critically analyse source materials, identify trends and themes, make connections and draw contrasts as well as to pose historically valid questions. Our children develop their historical skills within a knowledge and vocabulary rich curriculum enabling them to communicate their ideas and opinions confidently and accurately.

Implementation

To ensure that high quality history is taking place throughout the whole school we implement a curriculum which is progressive from EYFS through to Year 2. Children begin in EYFS by learning history that is most recent and relevant to them so that they understand the concept of history before they learn about events further in the past. History lessons are planned through our termly topics with a focus on knowledge and skills. History lessons have a strong focus on vocabulary which ensures that all children are able to talk about history using the appropriate language. This is including on termly knowledge organisers so that children, parents and teachers are clear about their learning. Lessons also include the study of a variety of source material as well as local historians, visiting speakers and our local area. The subject leaders work closely alongside teachers to ensure that knowledge and skills within history lessons are progressive through the school. Our robust foundation subject monitoring system, includes planning scrutiny, book looks, subject data analysis, subject coverage checks, lesson observations and pupil conferencing will enable the curriculum leaders to check coverage and progression.

Impact

Children will know more, remember more and understand more about history. They will be able to think critically about history and be able to ask and answer questions. Our children will be able to communicate their historical knowledge and understanding confidently using the correct terminology and accurate facts to support. They will have a secure sense of chronology and be able to make connections between the people, events, societies and cultures of the past and of the present. Our children will think and act like historians.