

THE MEADOWS PRIMARY SCHOOL

Policy for History

History is about giving children a 'coherent knowledge and understanding of Britain's past and that of the wider world.' (National Curriculum, 2014)

At the Meadows Primary School we believe in a cross-curricular approach to learning History thus enabling all children to achieve and experience success.

We aim to inspire children's curiosity and interest in the lives of people who lived in the past and to develop their sense of chronology so that they develop a sense of identity and a cultural understanding based on their historical heritage.

By the time pupils leave the Meadows Primary School we hope that we will have stimulated a real love and genuine interest in History and will have equipped pupils with all the necessary historical skills to develop their love for History further into secondary school and beyond.

Aims

- 1 To foster a love and enthusiasm for the learning of History.
- 2 To develop children's curiosity in the events of the past, allowing them to take responsibility for their own learning.
- 3 To help children develop a bank of historical knowledge and understanding of Britain and the wider world's past, which will help them to come to some understanding about how past events and historical people have an influence on the present day world around them.
- 4 To equip each child with the necessary historical skills so that they think as a Historian would.
- 5 To promote children's ability to see events from a range of different perspectives thus developing an empathy with people in the past and present.
- 6 To encourage children to draw upon their historical skills, consider different perspectives about historical events and form their own conclusions and judgements about events and people in the past and present.
- 7 To encourage children to show their knowledge and understanding of History in a range of ways and through a range of different subjects.

Guidelines

- 1 By giving children access to stimulating and inspiring lessons
- 2 Allowing children to take responsibility for their own learning in History will ensure that they are curious and interested in what they are learning. History topics will begin by finding out what the children already know and what they would like to find out about.

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- 3 We have used the National Curriculum (2014) to ensure coverage and have used these documents to create exciting, cross-curricular topics that will teach the children about Britain and the wider world including famous historical events and people. There will be a focus on considering how these past communities and events have impacted on our present world.
- 4 By developing the children's historical skills throughout the school, as follows: chronology, knowledge and understanding, historical interpretation, historical enquiry and organisation and communication we are equipping each child with skills to think as a Historian would. Our 'Progression of Skills' document will promote the development and progression of these skills as children move up through the year groups.
- 5 Children will be encouraged to use sources of evidence that show a range of different perspectives about an event or person from the past and they will be taught how to consider the reliability of the sources they use.
- 6 Children will be encouraged to draw upon their knowledge and understanding about the past and use their historical skills to form and share their own conclusions with their teacher and fellow peers.
- 7 By encouraging children to present their work in a range of ways e.g. storyboard, story, labelled diagram, play-script, etc., children will be encouraged to draw upon other subject areas to help show their knowledge, thus allowing all children to succeed.
- 8 The history lead will monitor history books and carry out drop-in lesson visits to ensure that the lesson plans are in line with the planning documents.
- 9 The history lead will carry out teacher voice and pupil voice surveys to gain further insight into how history planning or lessons might need to be adjusted or improved.

Teaching and Learning Style

We believe in a real 'hands on' approach to the teaching of History, aiming to bring History 'to life' through the use of off-site visits, visits from experts and the use of drama as a highly effective tool for teaching History. For each topic, we aim to have either an appropriate off-site visit or visitor into school that will enhance the children's learning in the area of study e.g. Viking expert group.

History Curriculum Planning and Cross-Curricular links

Teachers lift objectives directly from our medium-term topic plans into their weekly plan and from there, plan exciting lessons for the children. These topics are planned with opportunities for cross-curricular links included and sometimes History will be taught through other subjects e.g. music, art, ICT, DT etc.

Use of ICT

Children have the opportunity to find out about past historical events and people through the use of ICT e.g. internet research and online resources such as videos and historical websites. Also, children are

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encouraged to show their historical knowledge of a period, event or person studied in a range of ways including the use of ICT e.g. PowerPoint presentation, video etc.

Teaching History children with Special Educational Needs

We teach History to all children and ensure that work is appropriately differentiated for children with Special Educational Needs or that they receive a different level of support with their work. Often teachers will ask teaching assistants to go through relevant word banks with Special Educational Needs children prior to a topic. In addition, as we believe in a cross-curricular approach to teaching History, all children, including those with Special Educational Needs, will have the opportunity to demonstrate their understanding through other subject areas too e.g. art or music.

Resources

Our topics are resourced through our in-school 'topic box collections', which contain a range of artefacts, books, pictures etc. that can all be used to enhance the teaching of History throughout the school.

Assessment

Children are assessed in History through teacher's daily lessons and their evaluations. At the start of most lessons, the children will have the opportunity to practise retrieving previously taught facts from memory in order to move the information to their long-term memories. At the beginning of a topic, class knowledge and understanding of a topic will be assessed and again at the end of the topic in order to assess the progress made. In addition to this, the children's knowledge will be assessed through an assessment activity which is identified in the planning documents e.g. PowerPoint presentation, playscript etc.