



## HISTORY CURRICULUM POLICY

At St James Primary School we have aspirations for every single child to succeed. Through our Christian vision we thoroughly believe that all children have the potential to thrive regardless of their starting points, personal context and characteristics. Our children learn through a supportive and purposeful curriculum, linked tightly to national curriculum objectives, that demonstrates that "With God there is no limit to what you can do. There is no obstacle you can't overcome. Through Him all things are possible." (Matthew 19:26) Our staff are committed to developing a love of learning, whilst developing the skills and values to support the all-round development of every pupil. St James C of E Primary School is a special place where we dream, believe, learn and achieve.

Our curriculum is made up of the planned activities that we as a school deliver in order to promote learning, personal growth and development. It includes not only the formal requirements of the National Curriculum, but also an exciting range of opportunities to enrich the experience. We aim to teach our children to grow into positive, responsible role models who can work and co-operate with others whilst developing the knowledge, skills and understanding within subjects as well as a positive attitude to use throughout their lives.

### INTENT

At St James Primary School we provide an enriching, challenging curriculum, made up of planned activities that we as a school deliver in order to promote learning, personal growth and development. History learning encourages our children to question the past, learn key values and understand the highlights of world and British history. Our children grow into positive, responsible role models and our History topics are taught for this purpose.

The past influences all aspects of our lives, and has shaped the customs and beliefs of the communities to which we belong. At St James, teaching history offers opportunities to develop children's sense of identity through learning about the development of Britain, Europe and the world and inspire children's curiosity. Our intent is to allow children to develop fundamental British and School values through the history curriculum.

### Long term memory

Knowledge empowers and nourishes children; it belongs to the many, not the few. A knowledge-rich curriculum has the power to address issues of social disadvantage. Leaders at St James instill high ambitions so that all pupils can take full advantage of opportunities, responsibilities and experiences in later life.

Learning can be defined as alteration in long term memory. With this being the case, leaders have implemented strategies taken from cognitive science to enhance and support pupils in the transfer of new knowledge into their long-term memory.

Teaching staff have drawn on research focusing on Cognitive Load Theory, and understand that pupils working memory is limited and that new content should be introduced to pupils in small, manageable steps to avoid overloading the working memory.

Leaders utilise 'dual-coding' strategies to support pupils in integrating new knowledge into long term memory. By providing simple images to pupils when new content is introduced, they can use

both visual and auditory strategies to process the information, forming a greater link with long term memory. 'Spaced retrieval' is also employed by teachers to enhance pupils' retrieval and secure knowledge into long term memory. Lessons typically begin with a daily retrieval opportunity and additional retrieval sessions are planned over the year.

## **IMPLEMENT**

We implement this by teaching a balanced curriculum. Throughout the school, at all stages, History is taught with school and British values in mind. Teachers ask the children how they think these values have developed over time and why they are important to us today. We learn from our past mistakes, but also our past successes. Children are encouraged to discover how our lives have developed from key historical events and decisions.

In each year group, four topics are taught in the year. These topics range from the stone age through to World War 2 and allow children to explore a range of historical contexts. In their time at St James, children will engage with history lessons with every topic to gain a thorough understanding of that time period.

At St James, we love to ask why. Why did a historical event take place? Why is it important? Why did the values and beliefs of a culture change over time? We learn how these cultures have affected the world using a range of lesson types.

We make cross curricular links, ensuring that every history topic has lessons with a writing, ICT or science focus. We encourage cross curricular writing in English lessons too, where children can use their knowledge and understanding of historical events to draw writing inspiration from. For example, our year 6 children gain a deep understanding of diary account writing from studying 'The boy in the striped pyjamas' during their World War 2 topic.

One of our key priorities at St James is to teach the History of our local area and community during various time periods. What was Bolton like during the Victorian era? How has it changed since the war? We also look deep into the historical developments of Britain's past, paying close attention to how society developed as a result of significant events and changes to our values and laws.

## **Marking & Feedback**

Teaching staff follow the school policy for marking and feedback. Leaders value the effectiveness of live marking and verbal feedback to further pupils' learning. Feedback informs subsequent lessons and interventions.

## **IMPACT**

At St James, all children are given equal opportunities to learn the national curriculum for History. Good progression is made across each Key Stage with regards to national curriculum objectives. Children enjoy a range of lessons with cross curricular links to many other subjects. They learn about the past from a variety of sources and develop a sense of chronology of world history. They are taught about the diversities of the societies studied, the experiences of both men and women and to consider human influences on the environment and of the lives of others.

Children leave St James having undertaken an enriching and enlightening curriculum. They understand the importance of world history and how the past has and will affect the future.

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