

# HISTORY

***'History has shown us that courage can be contagious and that hope can take on a life of its own'***  
**Michelle Obama**

## **Intent**

Through the teaching of History, we aim for children to develop a growing curiosity about lives and events in the past across a wide and diverse range of time periods. Our teaching supports pupils to ask questions, think critically, weigh evidence, sift arguments and develop perspective and judgements. We aim to develop children's historical perspectives and sense of chronology, applying their growing knowledge to different contexts so that they can make meaningful connections between different periods in History. Using key concepts such as chronology, monarchy and rule and invasion, children can reflect on the similarities and differences in the everyday lives of people, over time and see how our lives today are still influenced by the things that happened in the past.

## **Implementation**

History is taught as part of our Blocked Curriculum (*History, History, Geography, Art and Design Technology*). Each year group will have two blocks of History learning (3 weeks per block) each year. Using our mapped overview plans, teachers plan a sequence of lessons across the block clearly setting out what is to be learnt and how each lesson builds on the one before it. Because we teach in mixed classes we operate a Year A/B plan to ensure that curriculum content is not repeated. Teachers are skilled at matching the learning to the children in their care. Using carefully written knowledge and skills maps (*Chris Quigley milestones*) we can plan to meet the needs of each year group albeit that their learning is organised under the same theme.

Knowledge Organisers, written to accompany the block of learning, are shared with parents and children at the start of a unit of teaching.

Employing strategies that are low stakes and low threat, such the use of quizzes and mini tests, teachers seek to ensure that knowledge is retained, returning also to previous knowledge to help children commit what they have learnt to long term memory.

History teaching will include wherever relevant opportunities to experience first-hand historical artefacts and support historical blocks of learning with trips and visits (to historically significant places) and visitors that support them to build their understanding of life in the past.

Our blocked curriculum overview document sets out the blocks of learning across each year and across the school. This document shows, where relevant, how History blocks may at times complement the learning in other areas. At other times History sits as a discreet subject for its own sake. In addition to this we have written a Subject Journey which shows clearly how History themes are returned to and built on across Key Stages 1 and 2. Our knowledge and concepts map sets out the explicit content of each block of History learning, enabling staff to clearly see what came before and what comes next, building on previous learning, revisiting and deepening concepts as well as strengthening knowledge.

## **Impact**

The children enjoy learning about history. The children can talk in some detail about the periods they have studied, they can describe what life was like for children and normal people. They can also talk in increasing detail about the lives of significant figures. By the end of KS2, children can use their knowledge of chronology to place key periods of history in order. They know that there is a

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difference between primary and secondary sources and understand that sources can be biased depending on the perspective of the person/s who recorded the event/s.

*“The history curriculum identifies precisely the essential concepts that pupils need to know and when they need to know them. This means that pupils build on prior knowledge to progress through the curriculum. Pupils remember a wealth of knowledge about people and key events in the past. They discuss what has happened in the past and how it shapes the world today.”* OFSTED Report December 2021.

As part of a Multi Academy Trust we have worked on ensuring that there are good links with our Secondary colleagues and carried out cross phase meetings to share curriculum and expertise. The outcome of these cross-phase meetings as been to establish over-riding curriculum intent for all our children ages 3-18.

## **Excalibur Curriculum Intent for History**

*Our pupils will develop a curiosity and a love of History. Through our teaching, they will develop a strong understanding of chronology, and periods of history, including the links and concepts between and within them. Throughout our enquiries, our pupils will secure strong historical skills including their ability to: investigate and interpretate the past; evaluate evidence; communicate effectively. As our pupils move through school, from nursery to the time they leave sixth form, we will teach them to think like an historian, to have secure knowledge, and an appreciation of a range of past, diverse peoples.*