

Thackley Primary School
History Policy

Aims and objectives.

The aim of history teaching at Thackley Primary School is to provide a means of developing children's curiosity about the past in both Britain and in the wider world. We encourage children to consider how the past influences the present, what past societies were like and how factors influenced people's lives and actions. By considering how people lived in the past, they are better able to make their own life choices today. Through using the EYFS curriculum, and the new National Curriculum and Excellence and Enjoyment, our school aims to fully develop each child's potential and stimulate curiosity and interest in history. We have adopted a new Learning Challenge Curriculum which takes account of the new National Curriculum (2014) and has been created by the Focus Education team. Through this curriculum we teach children to understand how events in the past have influenced our lives today; we also teach them to investigate these past events and, by so doing, to develop the skills of enquiry, analysis, interpretation and problem-solving.

Our aims and objectives in teaching History include giving children opportunities to:

- Stimulate the children's interest and understanding about the life of people who lived in the past.
- Develop their sense of enquiry through investigation, observation and by asking questions
- Teach children a sense of chronology and through this they develop a sense of identity and a cultural understanding based on their historical heritage.
- Find evidence from a range of sources, weigh it up and draw conclusions.
- Gain a sense of identity, cultural roots and inheritance.
- Extend their knowledge of other cultures, events and people in the recent and more distant past.
- Develop a sense of historical imagination and empathy.
- Develop their historical skills through other areas of the curriculum.
- To help children develop the use of ICT in investigating and recording.

Our Teaching Aims:

We provide children with historical learning challenges, which will help to develop their inquisitive minds. Our aim is to teach history in ways that are imaginative, purposeful, well managed and enjoyable, making links between history and other subjects.

We will ensure this by:

- Following the objectives as outlined in the Learning Challenge Curriculum which takes account of the new National Curriculum (2014).
- Ensuring a cross curricular approach to history and making relevant links where feasible.
- Ensuring elements of historical skills will be covered each year.
- Visiting museums and other historical sites.
- Using a range of sources of information.

At Thackley Primary School children in the Foundation Stage are given the opportunity to develop historical skills through the Knowledge and Understanding of the World strand of the EYFS.

Assessment/ Recording and Reporting:

Teacher assessment is a continuous process used to inform and develop our teaching. Assessment of history at Thackley is carried out in the following ways:

- Topics commonly begin with an assessment of what children already know and what they would like to learn more about.
- Observation and questioning of individuals or groups of children.
- Assessment for learning is a continuous process which all class teachers are very well practised in. Understanding how to move your children on
- Using the ELG and National Curriculum level descriptors as the benchmark against which assessments will be made and they will inform future planning.
- Children's progress in history is assessed at the end of the year. A new format for assessing and recording history is being introduced in the new academic year.
- Homework projects are often linked to the creative curriculum.

Monitoring:

The monitoring of the standards of children's work and the quality of teaching and planning in history is the responsibility of the history subject leader. She will regularly monitor short term planning throughout the school to ensure continuity, coverage and progression. This will also include viewing displays, children's work and the use of resources. Annotated work will be collected alongside assessments. The history subject leader is also responsible for supporting colleagues in the teaching of history and keeping them informed about current developments in the subject. The history subject leader submits an annual report and analysis indicating strengths and areas to develop within the subject and recommendations for the future.

Inclusion:

At Thackley, we teach history to all children, whatever their ability and a positive use of technology is promoted for all. Teachers pay close attention to equal opportunities in respect of gender and race. Children's individual needs will be addressed through questioning, provision of resources and learning styles to ensure all children make progress.

- Pupils with special educational needs will be identified in planning. Consideration will be given to modifying tasks, or providing peer or adult support, for children with difficulties.
- We aim to provide a challenging curriculum for all our children. Through the Gifted and Talented policy we can identify those children who require extending in history. These children should be identified in planning and appropriate tasks to extend the breadth and depth of history provided.

REVIEW AND DEVELOPMENT

This policy and its effectiveness will be reviewed every 3 years.

History Subject Leader: Mrs C Bolton

Written: May 2014

To be reviewed: May 2017