

St Mary of the Angels History Policy



Our Mission Statement:

Love Jesus, Love Learning, Love Life

Overview

At St Mary of the Angels our aim is to help all children to develop an understanding of time, place, people and events through the effective teaching and learning of the knowledge, skills and understanding of history. We aim to ignite a curiosity to learn about the past that will help children understand who they are and how their environment and world has changed over time.

Aims and Objectives

History teaches an understanding of time, place, people and events. The aims of history are:

- To enable children to develop a sense of the past and instil a curiosity and understanding of events, places and people in a variety of times and environments.
- To develop an interest in the past and an appreciation of human achievements and aspirations.
- To understand how the past was different from the present and that people of other times and places may have had different values and attitudes.
- To develop a knowledge of chronology within which children can organise their understanding of the past.
- To develop children's skills as historians to enable them to research and discover the past.

History Curriculum Planning

St Mary of the Angels uses the National Curriculum for History as a basis for our curriculum planning and will make meaningful links with other areas of the curriculum. Planning for history is incorporated within long term planning and short-term weekly plans. Thematic termly plans will map out the skills and themes covered each term for each key stage.

Teaching and Learning

At St Mary of the Angels we use a variety of teaching and learning styles in our history lessons. We believe that history should be fun and engaging and taught through whole-class teaching methods combined with practical, enquiry-based research activities.

We believe that children learn most effectively when:

- They have access to and are able to handle artefacts and secondary sources such as books, photographs and videos.
- They go on visits to museums and places of interest and participate in workshops.
- They listen to and interact with stories from the past.
- They use drama and dance to act out historical events and participate in a range of creative activities.
- They experience visitors talking about and sharing their own personal experiences of the past.
- They are provided with opportunities to work independently or collaboratively to ask as well as answer historical questions.
- Learning opportunities and activities are matched to the ability of the child, enabling them to work to their full potential.
- Forest school learning will build on the historical understanding that the children have and teach them new skills

Assessment for Learning

Assessment is used to inform planning and facilitate differentiation. Teachers will assess children's work in history through making informal judgements as they observe them during lessons and will provide oral or written feedback as necessary to inform future progress. Coverage and progression are recorded on our internal assessment system, where the children will be assessed against end of topic end points. Teachers will make informal assessments against progress in history on a termly basis.

Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS)

History is taught in EYFS (Understanding the World) as an integral part of topic work through child-initiated and adult led activities. Children find out about past and present events in their own lives as well as those of their friends and families. We use photographs and artefacts as well as talking to family members and older people about 'then' and 'now'.

Resources

Visits and workshops are planned to enhance learning and provide practical, engaging and memorable experiences and activities. People with an interest or expertise in history are invited to school to talk to the children and share their knowledge. We have a good supply of topic books and access to educational websites to support children's learning.