



History Policy

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The Acorn Federation History Policy

Introduction

This document is a statement of the aims, principles and strategies for the teaching and learning of History in The Acorn Federation.

Definition

“A high-quality history education will help pupils gain a coherent knowledge and understanding of Britain’s past and that of the wider world. It should inspire pupils’ curiosity to know more about the past. Teaching should equip pupils to ask perceptive questions, think critically, weigh evidence, sift arguments, and develop perspective and judgement. History helps pupils to understand the complexity of people’s lives, the process of change, the diversity of societies and relationships between different groups, as well as their own identity and the challenges of their time.”

National Curriculum 2014

Aims

The national curriculum for history aims to ensure that all pupils:

- know and understand the history of these islands as a coherent, chronological narrative, from the earliest times to the present day: how people’s lives have shaped this nation and how Britain has influenced and been influenced by the wider world
- know and understand significant aspects of the history of the wider world: the nature of ancient civilisations; the expansion and dissolution of empires; characteristic features of past non-European societies; achievements and follies of mankind
- gain and deploy a historically grounded understanding of abstract terms such as ‘empire’, ‘civilisation’, ‘parliament’ and ‘peasantry’
- understand historical concepts such as continuity and change, cause and consequence, similarity, difference and significance, and use them to make connections, draw contrasts, analyse trends, frame historically-valid questions and create their own structured accounts, including written narratives and analyses
- understand the methods of historical enquiry, including how evidence is used rigorously to make historical claims, and discern how and why contrasting arguments and interpretations of the past have been constructed
- gain historical perspective by placing their growing knowledge into different contexts, understanding the connections between local, regional, national and international history; between cultural, economic, military, political, religious and social history; and between short- and long-term timescales.

Teaching Objectives

We use the 2014 National Curriculum.

EYFS

Skills in the Foundation Stage are planned through the objectives within the EYFS.

Key Stage 1

Pupils should develop an awareness of the past, using common words and phrases relating to the passing of time. They should know where the people and events they study fit within a chronological framework and identify similarities and differences between ways of life in different periods. They should use a wide vocabulary of everyday historical terms. They should ask and answer questions, choosing and using parts of stories and other sources to show that they know and understand key features of events. They should understand some of the ways in which we find out about the past and identify different ways in which it is represented.

In planning to ensure the progression described above through teaching about the people, events and changes outlined below, teachers are often introducing pupils to historical periods that they will study more fully at key stages 2 and 3.

Pupils should be taught about:

- changes within living memory. Where appropriate, these should be used to reveal aspects of change in national life
- events beyond living memory that are significant nationally or globally [for example, the Great Fire of London, the first aeroplane flight or events commemorated through festivals or anniversaries]
- the lives of significant individuals in the past who have contributed to national and international achievements. Some should be used to compare aspects of life in different periods [for example, Elizabeth I and Queen Victoria, Christopher Columbus and Neil Armstrong, William Caxton and Tim Berners-Lee, Pieter Bruegel the Elder and LS Lowry, Rosa Parks and Emily Davison, Mary Seacole and/or Florence Nightingale and Edith Cavell]
- significant historical events, people and places in their own locality.

Key Stage 2

Pupils should continue to develop a chronologically secure knowledge and understanding of British, local and world history, establishing clear narratives within and across the periods they study. They should note connections, contrasts and trends over time and develop the appropriate use of historical terms. They should regularly address and sometimes devise historically valid questions about change, cause, similarity and difference, and significance. They should construct informed responses that involve thoughtful selection and organisation of relevant historical information. They should understand how our knowledge of the past is constructed from a range of sources.

In planning to ensure the progression described above through teaching the British, local and world history outlined below, teachers should combine overview and depth studies to help pupils understand both the long arc of development and the complexity of specific aspects of the content.

Pupils should be taught about:

- changes in Britain from the Stone Age to the Iron Age
- the Roman Empire and its impact on Britain
- Britain's settlement by Anglo-Saxons and Scots
- the Viking and Anglo-Saxon struggle for the Kingdom of England to the time of Edward the Confessor
- a local history study
- a study of an aspect or theme in British history that extends pupils' chronological knowledge beyond 1066
- the achievements of the earliest civilizations – an overview of where and when the first civilizations appeared and a depth study of one of the following: Ancient Sumer; The Indus Valley; Ancient Egypt; The Shang Dynasty of Ancient China
- Ancient Greece – a study of Greek life and achievements and their influence on the western world
- a non-European society that provides contrasts with British history – one study chosen from: early Islamic civilization, including a study of Baghdad c. AD 900; Mayan civilization c. AD 900; Benin (West Africa) c. AD 900-1300.

Planning

We use the New Curriculum as the basis for all our planning. The infant class follows a three year cycle of topics and the junior class follows a four year cycle. We ensure that there are

opportunities for children of all abilities to develop their skills and knowledge in each unit, and we plan progression into the schemes of work so that the children are increasingly challenged.

We carry out curriculum planning in three phases (long term, medium term and short term). Whenever possible and appropriate, cross curricular links should be identified.

Teachers from the Foundation Stage to Year 6 will plan to ensure full coverage of the skills relating to the History curriculum for that year group throughout the year. Teachers will plan before the start of each new theme, and at this point highlight the skills to be covered.

Record Keeping, Assessment and Reporting

As with all areas of the curriculum, assessment is an integral part of the teaching process. Class teachers should keep records of work carried out, and levels of achievement of the work. Formative assessment is used to guide the process of individual pupils in history. It involves identifying each child's progress in each aspect of the curriculum, determining what each child has learnt and what should therefore be the next step in their learning. Formative assessment is mostly carried out informally by the teachers in the course of their teaching and should be based on the identified assessment opportunities. Children's progress in History is reported to parents through the pupil annual report and consultation meetings throughout the year. There is no statutory teacher assessment in KS1 and KS2 for History.

Monitoring

The monitoring of coverage and progress across the school will be done by the subject co-ordinator in consultation with teachers and the SLT.

Inclusion

The Acorn Federation plans to provide for all pupils to achieve, including boys and girls, higher achieving pupils, gifted and talented pupils, those with SEN, pupils with disabilities, pupils from all social and cultural backgrounds, children who are in care and those subject to safeguarding, pupils from different ethnic groups and those from diverse linguistic backgrounds.

We strive towards an outstanding school that provides a creative and enriching learning experience for all pupils. We respond to the diversity of need through our commitment to equality; overcoming potential barriers to learning and setting suitable personalised targets. We set high expectations and expect every child to succeed. They should reach their full potential, recognising personal strengths and celebrating personal achievements of themselves and others; both within the school and its wider community.

Equal Opportunity

Care should be taken to give each child the opportunity to learn about the global community, regardless of race, Religion, language or gender.

Health and Safety

Children should be working in a safe environment both in and outside of the classroom. The relevant risk assessments must be completed when using any potentially dangerous equipment, such as scissors or craft knives. When conducting fieldwork, children should be properly supervised and should be made aware of any potential dangers, such as busy roads or water hazards.

The Coordinator will review this policy on a 3 yearly basis.