



# History Curriculum Intent

## Intent

At St Nicholas School our intent, when teaching History, is to stimulate the children's curiosity in order for them to develop their knowledge, skills and understanding about the past. History is all around us; in our families with their unique backgrounds, cultures and traditions and in our local and wider communities. Through finding out about how and why the world has developed over time, children understand how the past influences the present. History enables our children to develop a context for their growing sense of identity and a chronological framework for their knowledge of significant events and people. What they learn through history can influence their decisions about personal choices, attitudes and values. The teaching of History in our school is intended to equip pupils to ask questions about the past, analyse evidence, think critically, appreciate different perspectives and develop informed judgements. We aim to provide an interesting and varied curriculum that intrigues our children while celebrating and appreciating all backgrounds, cultures and traditions.

## Implementation

Our History Curriculum is high quality, well thought out and planned to demonstrate progression. This ensures that skills and knowledge are built on year on year and sequenced appropriately to maximise learning for all children. In History, children at St Nicholas find evidence, weigh it up and reach for their own conclusion. To do this successfully, children are given opportunities to research, interpret evidence, including primary and secondary sources, and are taught the necessary skills to put across their point of view. We provide a variety of curriculum enrichment experiences through educational visits, trips and workshops linked to the topics covered, for each year group. This enables our children to experience a rich variety of 'hands-on' learning, access to heritage sites and expert historians.

In **EYFS** we focus on changes within living memory. Our topics feature in the children's everyday lives through looking at themselves, families and community and occur in regular themes in the books, nursery rhymes and songs we listen to. We use objects, images, stories and songs to discuss the past and use words such as now/then/before/after to describe the passing of time.

In **KS1** we build upon children's understanding that the past is different to now by looking at the changes in more in depth. We introduce the idea of sources; explaining what information historians gained from each source. We use themed books, computing,

## Learning, Loving, Living in God's Family

*"But I am like an olive tree flourishing in the house of God; I trust in God's unfailing love forever and ever. Psalm 52:8*



artefacts and special visitors to help immerse children in the topic and use topic books to help children gather knowledge. We look at changes within living memory, significant events and significant people. Children are introduced to common words and phrases related to the passing of time and everyday historical terms linked the person or event they are studying. Children are taught where the people and events they study fit within a chronological framework and identify similarities and differences between ways of life in different periods.

In **KS2** children continue to develop a chronologically and secure knowledge and understanding of British, local and world history, establishing clear narratives within and across the periods they study. We continue to look at a wide range of sources and explain the conclusions historians have drawn from them. Children are encouraged to look for connections, contrasts and trends over time and develop the appropriate use of historical terms. We regularly address and sometimes devise historically valid questions about change, cause, similarity and difference, and significance. By the time the children leave St Nicholas in Year 6 they will have a secure chronological understanding of British history from the Stone Age to the present day. They will be able to draw comparisons and make connections between different time periods and their own lives.

## **Impact**

Children at St Nicholas have a passion for history and an enthusiastic engagement in learning, which develops their sense of curiosity about the past. The children show a secure knowledge and understanding of people, events and contexts from the historical periods covered and the ability to think, reflect, debate, discuss and evaluate the past, forming and refining questions and lines of enquiry. Children at St Nicholas have a cohesive and chronological narrative about the History of the British Isles, as well as comprehensive knowledge of wider world history. Our assessment and monitoring allow us to see the impact of our teaching, guide future planning and ensure that our standards of teaching are high.

## **Learning, Loving, Living in God's Family**

*"But I am like an olive tree flourishing in the house of God; I trust in God's unfailing love forever and ever. Psalm 52:8*