

# HISTORY POLICY

The aim of history teaching at Simmondley Primary School is to stimulate the children's interest and understanding about events and the life of people who lived in the past. We teach children a sense of chronology, and through this they develop a sense of identity and a cultural understanding based on their historical heritage. They learn to value their own and other people's cultures in modern multicultural Britain and, by considering how people lived in the past, they are better able to make their own life choices today. 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.

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 to 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**

History teaching focuses on enabling children to think as historians. We place an emphasis on examining historical artefacts and primary sources. In each key stage we give children the opportunity to visit sites of historical significance, or we invite companies into school who specialise in specific areas of history. We recognise and value the importance of stories in history teaching and we regard this as an important way of stimulating interest in the past. We focus on helping children understand that historical events can be interpreted in different ways and that they should always ask searching questions, such as 'how do we know?', about information they are given. We also emphasise the understanding of chronology.

The children in KS1 and KS2 following a two year rolling programme, designed to cover the content and skills of the 2014 National Curriculum. This is usually subject specific but can be thematic where appropriate in KS1. Where possible we make links to other subjects and

opportunities are given to apply English and maths in their history work. In the foundation stage history is delivered through the specific area, 'The World'.

We recognise the fact that children vary widely in their historical abilities and we provide suitable learning opportunities for all children by

- setting tasks involving mixed ability groupings;
- setting common tasks which are open ended;
- setting tasks of increasing difficulty, with some children not completing all tasks.

### **Progression and Assessment**

Most assessments are formative although one summative assessment is planned for the end of each topic. Children build on their knowledge, understanding and skills as they move through school so that they are able to make links across periods of history and have a growing sense of chronology so that they become 'secondary ready'.

### **Equal Opportunities**

Our aim is to give all pupils an equal opportunity of receiving a high quality experience of history. Sensitivity is exercised when pupils' homes are studied as part of the curriculum.

### **Resources**

Resources such as DVDs, text books etc. are stored in a central area and audited annually. The subscription to 'Keystagehistory' is a valuable resource, as is Espresso. The school also subscribes to the Historical Association.

**This policy was approved by the Curriculum Committee in October 2015. To be reviewed annually.**