



# **St. Mary's R.C. Primary School**

## **History Policy**

**Vision: 'A Journey to Excellence'**

**We believe that each child is made in the image and likeness of God therefore we develop the 'whole child' to reach their individual potential. We have high expectations and celebrate success both academically and socially. We aim to provide an outstanding Catholic education so that we can make a valuable contribution to the community in which live and serve.**

**Mission statement:**

**'We are happy living and learning in God's Friendship'**

This policy outlines the teaching, organisation and management of History taught and learnt at St Mary's R.C. Primary School, Bacup.

### **Rationale**

Through learning History, we hope to stimulate the pupil's interest and understanding about the world around them and the lives of people who lived in the past. We aim to teach children a sense of chronology, and through this they develop a sense of identity and a cultural understanding based on their historical heritage. As a Catholic school, we believe that children should learn to value their own and other people's cultures in modern multicultural Britain and the world. Through 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 to develop the skills of enquiry, analysis, interpretation and problem-solving.

### **Aims and Objectives**

The aims and objectives of learning History in primary school are to;

- enable children to be observant about the historical and social aspects of their local environment and national heritage;
- help pupils develop a chronological framework for their knowledge of significant events and people in their lives;
- encourage children to be aware of the past and recognise links between local, national and international events;
- enable children to compare and contrast the past with the present;
- help pupils to be interested in the world around them and its past;
- to help children understand society and their place within it, so that they develop a sense of their cultural heritage;
- Develop a variety of key skills including those of inquiry, problem solving, creative thinking, computing and communication;
- improve English, Maths, Science and computing skills through carefully planned cross curricular links.

The children are taught to;

- ask and answer historical questions;
- form hypotheses and collect and record evidence appropriately;
- distinguish between fact and opinion and develop their own points of view;
- explore and explain the causes and consequences of different events;
- be tolerant and respectful of the many value systems, cultures and peoples represented in the past and present;
- develop the skills of enquiry, investigation, analysis, evaluation and presentation;
- explore data and present information in a variety of forms;
- work individually and co-operatively, listening to and valuing the opinion of others.

### **Teaching Strategies**

At St Mary's, History is taught in a cross curricular way through half term creative curriculum based themes and topics using the Lancashire Support Material theme booklets as a guideline, in addition to the St Mary's curriculum overview and key objectives devised from the Lancashire support material. History objectives are taken from the current Programme of Study and linked to the development of key skills that pupils are expected to develop in each key stage. These are based on Target Tracker's KPIs (Key Performance Indicators). As KS2 have split classes, these topics are taught on a two yearly cycle. Topics are planned so that all children learn and develop a breadth of historical skills and understanding, these will include opportunities for practical activities wherever possible. Children will also have opportunities to work individually, in pairs, groups and as a whole class wherever necessary.

Evidence of successfully planned cross curricular topics that encompass History skills can be found around school through class and corridor displays, books and class assemblies.

Throughout the year, children have the opportunity to participate in visits linked to topic themes. We have 'theme' weeks throughout the year which are related to a particular area of learning; History is incorporated into theme weeks during the course of the year.

### **Planning**

Staff follow the Lancashire Support Materials Overview and St Mary's Curriculum Overview which outlines the topics to be studied in each year group, half termly.

Based on the Lancashire Support Materials for each topic, teachers plan around this ensuring that there is progression through a topic linked to the objectives given for that term. Specific outcomes are also shown within the half termly theme booklet. Key skills, enquiry and investigations are incorporated into these plans. Teachers constantly review and adapt plans in order to ensure that coverage is balanced, and that there is a steady progression of skills as the children move from year group to year group.

All planning is differentiated wherever possible to ensure that the range of abilities and needs of the children within our school are catered for, either through support and guidance or through extra challenge.

### **Teaching and Learning**

At St Mary's, our History teaching focuses on enabling children to think as Historians. To do this we encourage all planning to take into account different learning styles- visual, auditory and kinaesthetic, to ensure all children are given the opportunity to develop their skills in the best way for them. History should be taught in an exciting way with practical and open ended tasks to develop children's independent enquiry skills. Through the creative curriculum aspect of our teaching historical skills are often linked to Art, DT, Computing and Drama. Teachers will plan appropriate trips and/or visitors will be arranged to come into school to bring aspects of topics and the curriculum to life.

### **Assessment and Recording**

At the end of a topic, teachers review children's learning and progression, updating their own records.

We use Target Tracker to assess children against their year groups end of year expectations in History.

### **Monitoring, reviewing and reporting**

**To monitor and evaluate History the subject leader will:**

- Support teachers via co-planning, team teaching, observing / giving feedback;
- Monitor teachers' planning and books to ensure there is a breadth and balance of coverage;
- Review and audit resource provision and manage the budget and purchasing of new and up to date equipment;
- Discuss regularly with the Headteacher and update the history governor about progress made in school;
- Give feedback and update staff with information from any courses attended;
- Produce written reports on the teaching of History throughout the school for the Governing Body.

### **Resources**

History resources are used in conjunction with;

- appropriate reference (fiction and non-fiction) books in the Learning Resource Centre;
- interactive whiteboards, computers for websites and software;
- DVD's and videos.
- Topic boxes
- Library Loan boxes from Lancashire County Council's School Library service.

### **Future Development targets**

- to review policy on a yearly basis;
- to ensure that all staff are fully aware of the needs of the new curriculum;
- to implement effective strategies for recording assessments of key History skills through Target Tracker.

### **REVIEW**

This policy will be reviewed annually, or as necessary.

The next review will take place in the Autumn Term 2018.

**Signed: \_\_\_\_\_ (on behalf of the staff)**

**Signed: \_\_\_\_\_ (on behalf of the governors)**

**Date: 13<sup>th</sup> December 2017**