

# St Laurence Church Infant School

## History Policy



Approved by: Curriculum, Safeguarding and  
Pupil Welfare Committee

Last revised on: June 2023

Next review due by: June 2026

## St Laurence Church Infant School

### History Policy 2020



As a Rights Respecting School, our History curriculum enables our children as rights holders to learn where our rights came from. The History curriculum in our school shows the children what life may have been like without these rights and why they are so important for them and others. Children use their knowledge to express their own opinions and thoughts based on the evidence they have seen and learn about topics that may have affected their personal identity and education and the development others rights around the world.

Our children told us:

We love History because we learn about people from the past. We like the topics we study like the toys topic and we loved learning about astronauts. We get to go on trips to see castles and to the think tank.

### Intent

#### Why do we teach History?

At St Laurence Infant School We want children to learn about the past. We want them to know how changes in History have impacted on their lives today.

Our History Curriculum is designed to develop five core characteristics in our pupils, which we believe will lay the foundations for them to be lifelong learners and good global citizens. These drivers are:



*Love for learning, life and one another.*

Our aims in teaching History at St Laurence Church Infant School help all children to..

- Feel part of a Community by:
  - working as part of a team
  - visiting local historical landmarks
  - discussing the history of places the children are familiar with
  - inviting in speakers to help link history to their experiences today.
- Be Creative by:
  - Developing their own answers and judgements based on the sources they are given
  - Exploring history through practical play, trips, videos and acting.
- Develop Curiosity by:
  - Teaching topics that link to the children's personal interests and locality
  - Go on trips and visits to prompt questioning and exploration
- Communicate confidently by:
  - Working in groups to share their ideas and judgements
  - Writing judgements and reasoning for their arguments.
- Care for ourselves, others and our world
  - Identify changes to rights and the world around them and how they are benefited
  - Discussing how one person/ place can significantly impact others around us

## **Implementation**

### **How we teach History**

Staff use the History Subject Jingle at the beginning of each session along with the visual timetable icon to ensure children articulate what History is like at St Laurence Church Infant School.

Children recap their knowledge through flashback 4 and build on their knowledge lesson by lesson to answer the overarching enquiry question for the topic.

We use a range of teaching and learning styles to deliver the History Curriculum. We teach either half termly or termly learning themes with an overarching enquiry question that encourages children to use Historical skills to develop their knowledge and understanding. We give the children opportunity to embed

learning through practical hands on experiences. We incorporate the use of ICT and artefacts within lessons and we aim to give context and purpose to children's learning making links to the history of the school, to Northfield and to Birmingham. We also draw on national events to celebrate and ask the children how these key world events have impacted on their lives or the lives of their family.

### **How we plan History**

We use the National Curriculum scheme of work for KS1 History as the basis of our planning. Coverage is ensured across the key stage by long term planning which identifies the focus substantive concept for the half term and the theme that this links to in their long-term historical development. This also outlines the key words that must be taught in the topics and the knowledge children should already have. Medium term planning breaks down the objectives into lessons and weekly planning that outlines the delivery of the lesson best suited to the needs of the class. Planning allows for progression of skills and for all children to access learning through a variety of explore activities.

### **How we teach History in EYFS**

In EYFS History is taught through Understanding the World but is an integral part of all aspects of EYFS learning. Beginning to understand their place within their family, and understanding things that have happened in their life to date allows them to begin to understand the concept of time and change. Their idea of things happening along time go is also developed through the teaching of the Christmas story. Children begin to develop a knowledge of the overarching concepts through stories in reading time that concept to later learning throughout KS1.

### **How we teach History in KS1**

The History teaching at St Laurence Church Infant School links in with our half termly or termly learning themes. In Year One children learn about their local history and the history of their school as well as how toys have changed over time and how leisure activities such as the seaside have changed over time. Children find out about a range of key historical figures including those from the world of Communication and Space.

In Year Two, children learn about key individuals in our locality (Bournville and Cadbury,) and around the world (Emilia Airheart, Wright brothers ect.) Children

also do more in-depth topic based studies as they explore castles and transportation and the impacts they have had over time.

There is a degree of flexibility in which key historical figures and events are studied in order to cater for the needs and the interests of cohorts. We teach History by encouraging children to be independent learners and using enquiry skills. We provide a range of teaching styles and resources for the children to access including ICT. We revisit History learning frequently so that children can make links and begin to see how things fit in a chronological order. We use the birth of Jesus as a key point on our timeline and add the key events in each topic as our knowledge develops.

### **How we ensure all children access the History Curriculum**

At St Laurence Church Infant School all children access the History Curriculum regardless of ability. Through carefully planned lessons and a range of different learning opportunities and teaching styles all children have access to the full History curriculum.

### **How we assess History**

Teachers assess how children learn through observing them working in lessons. They use questioning skills to extend learning and give children the opportunity to expand their understanding through practical activities. Children are given immediate feedback during lesson time and steps to move their learning forward. Teachers encourage children to make links across the curriculum and allow children to demonstrate their knowledge of History at any given time. Teachers use this knowledge to assess against the History Curriculum. At the end of the topic, children answer their topic question and use the evidence they have gained to show their knowledge and understanding of the topic.

### **How History is monitored**

The Subject Lead has regular discussions with class teachers about the delivery of the History Curriculum. The subject Lead provides support with lesson planning and monitors books. These discussions allow for planning to be updated and modified accordingly in order to best suit the cohort. The Subject Lead is in the process of updating resources and organising them (June 2023).

### **Impact**

Children at St Laurence Church Infant School can talk about things from the past with confidence. They are beginning to understand how we find out things from the past and understand that not everything we read is true. Children develop a stronger understanding of the world around them. They are beginning to see how history has had an impact on the world and can make historical links to the bible stories that they know. The skills, knowledge and vocabulary gained throughout their time being taught the History Curriculum at St Laurence Church Infant school, ensures all children are able to Feel part of a Community, Be Creative, Develop Curiosity, Communicate confidently and Care for ourselves, others and our world.

### **Review**

The policy will be reviewed within the next 3 years. Or before if there are changes to the History Curriculum.

Date of Policy June 2023

Date of Review June 2026

History Co-ordinator Chloe Farrall