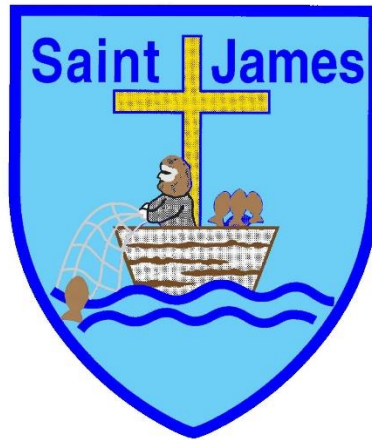


## **Altham St. James' History Policy**



### **Our Mission Statement**

**Living our lives as Jesus wants us to**

- **Be the best that we can be**
- **Respect the world and everyone in it**
- **Love, Forgive and reconcile**

***John 15:12 Love each other as I have loved you***

### **Introduction**

At Altham St. James' CE Primary we are committed to providing all children with learning opportunities to engage in history. This policy sets out a framework within which teaching and non-teaching staff can work, and gives guidance on planning, teaching and assessment.

History is about real people who lived, and real events, which happened in the past. History is concerned with sequence, time and chronology and is the study of evidence about the past; it gives us a sense of identity, set within our social, political, cultural and economic relationships. History fires the children's curiosity about the past in Britain and the wider world and plays an essential part in preparing us for

living and working in the contemporary world. Pupils consider how the past influences the present, what past societies were like, how these societies organised their politics, and what beliefs and cultures influenced people's actions. As they do this, children develop a chronological framework for their knowledge of significant events and people. They see the diversity of human experience, and understand more about themselves as individuals and members of society. What they learn can influence their decisions about personal choices, attitudes and values. In history, children find evidence, weigh it up and reach their own conclusions. To do this they need to be able to research, sift through evidence, and argue for their point of view – skills that are prized in adult life.

### Aims

- > To instil in the children a curiosity and understanding of events, places and people in a variety of times and environments.
- > To develop an interest in the past and an appreciation of human achievements and aspirations.
- > To understand the values of our society.
- > To learn about the major issues and events in the history of our own country and of the world and how these events may have influenced one another.
- > To develop a knowledge of chronology within which the children can organise their understanding of the past.
- > To understand how the past was different from the present and that people of other times and places may have had different values and attitudes from ours.
- > To understand the nature of evidence by emphasising the process of enquiry and by developing the range of skills required to interpret primary and secondary source materials.
- > To distinguish between historical facts and the interpretation of those facts.
- > To understand that events have a multiplicity of causes and that historical explanation is provisional, debatable and sometimes controversial.

### Curriculum.

The children undertake a broad and balanced programme that takes account of abilities, aptitudes and physical, emotional and intellectual development. Through

history, the children learn a range of skills, concepts, attitudes and methods of working.

### Early Years

History is taught in Reception as an integral part of the topic work through child-initiated and adult led activities. The children are given the opportunity to find out about past and present events in their own lives, and those of their families and other people they know. In the Foundation stage, history makes a significant contribution to developing a child's understanding of the world through activities such as looking at pictures of famous people in history or discovering the meaning of new and old in relation to their own lives.

### Key Stage 1

During Key Stage 1, pupils learn about people's lives and lifestyles. They find out about significant men, women, children and events from the recent and more distant past in Britain and the wider world. They listen, and respond to stories and use sources of information to help them ask and answer questions. They learn how the past is different from the present.

### Key Stage 2

During Key Stage 2 pupils learn about significant people, events and places from both recent and more distant past. They learn about change and continuity in their own area, in Britain and in other parts of the world. They look at history in a variety of ways, for example from political, economic, technological and scientific, social, religious, cultural or aesthetic perspectives. They use different sources of information to help them investigate the past both in depth and in overview, using dates and historical vocabulary to describe events, people and developments. They also learn that the past can be represented and interpreted in different ways.

### Teaching and Learning

The school uses a variety of teaching and learning styles in history lessons. Our principal aim is to develop the children's knowledge, skills and understanding in history. We believe in whole-class teaching methods and combine these with enquiry-based research activities.

We believe children learn best when:

- > They have access to, and are able to handle artefacts.
- > They go on visits to museums and places of interest.
- > They have access to secondary sources such as books and photographs.
- > Visitors talk about personal experiences of the past.
- > They listen to and interact with stories from the past.
- > They undertake fieldwork by interviewing family and older friends about changes in their own and other people's lives.
- > They use drama and dance to act out historical events.
- > They are shown, or use independently, resources from the internet and videos.
- > They are able to use non-fiction books for research
- > They are provided with opportunities to work independently or collaboratively, to ask as well as answer historical questions.

We recognise the fact that we have children of differing ability in all our classes, and so we provide suitable learning opportunities for all children by matching the challenge of the task to the ability of the child. We achieve this through a range of strategies, which are differentiated by task, expected outcome and/or support from peers or adults.

#### History curriculum planning

At Altham St. James' Primary School history is taught through a topic approach. Our curriculum is carefully planned over a two year cycle to engage and excite all our learners. Our long-term and medium-term plans map out the skills and themes covered each term for each key stage. These plans define what we will teach and ensure an appropriate balance and distribution of work across each term.

#### Assessment and Recording

Assessment is an integral part of the teaching process. Assessment is used to inform planning and to facilitate differentiation. The assessment of children's work is on-going to ensure that understanding is being achieved and that progress is being made. Feedback is given to the children as soon as possible, and the school's Marking Policy will guide marking work. Teachers will record for themselves, at the end of each topic, those children who are not working at the expected standard or are working above the expected standard. This information will be passed on to the next teacher when the cohort moves on.

## Monitoring

This subject is led by Mrs Bellard, but the whole staff set aside time each year to review standards, monitor curriculum provision and ensure training and resources are up to date. Monitoring takes place through sampling children's work and planning, conversations with pupils and staff, and lesson observations.

## Resources

A wide range of books, interactive resources, artefacts visits and visitors are used to enhance learning.

## **Online Safety statement**

All members of the school community have a responsibility for promoting and supporting safe behaviours online. ICT and online resources are increasingly used across the curriculum. At Altham St. James', we believe it is essential for e-safety guidance to be given to the pupils on a regular and meaningful basis. Pupils are taught about copyright and respecting other people's information, images, etc. through discussion, modelling, and activities as part of the curriculum. Additionally, pupils are taught to critically evaluate materials and learn good searching skills. Staff must preview any recommended sites before use. Particular care must be taken when using search engines with the children as these can return undesirable links. We continually look for new opportunities to promote e-safety.

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