Mayflower Primary School

History Curriculum Statement 2024 - 2025

Intent

Through the History curriculum at Mayflower we strive to inspire a curiosity within our children to learn more about the past. We aim to develop an understanding of British, world and ancient history. We work to develop an understanding of chronology as well as a knowledge and understanding of how the local area has changed over time. The children are given the opportunity to examine, interpret, and critically evaluate a variety of sources in order to make deductions about the past. They are taught to think and behave as historians and archaeologists. They are also taught about the significance of different historical periods, key historical figures and how History has influenced their lives today. The children are also encouraged to pose their own historical questions. We investigate how and why the world has changed as well as what we can learn from the past to make the future a better place. British Values are woven into the History curriculum promoting values such as democracy. They are taught to understand the complexity of people's lives, the diversities of societies and relationships between different groups. We aim to inspire the children so that they have a lifelong love of History through visitors and school trips.

Implementation

The National Curriculum is used to plan and deliver the teaching of History at Mayflower in a systematic and progressive way. Our History curriculum has been constructed around key enquiry questions to enable children to make connections, revise and recap previous History units. Using pictures, photographs, film clips (primary and secondary), key vocabulary and historical evidence as a starting point, pupils are encouraged to discuss and reason with curiosity what they are presented with and how this can be interpreted. Having studied historical evidence, children are encouraged to react to History and use this knowledge to discuss, present, debate, re-enact and write using historical facts and from a critical perspective. This embeds and consolidates pupils' understanding of History and its impact on people. In the wider, broad and balanced curriculum, pupils are exposed to a range of stories and poems from different historical periods with the intention of deepening their knowledge of History further. At Mayflower, historical learning is made significantly more memorable due to our carefully planned trips and our visitors who are able to share their experience to help children deepen their historical knowledge even more.

Impact

Within history, we strive to create a supportive and collaborative ethos for learning by providing investigative and enquiry based learning opportunities. Emphasis is placed on investigative learning to help children gain a coherent knowledge and understanding of each unit of work covered throughout the school. Our history curriculum is high quality, well thought out and is planned to develop progression. Children are able to talk openly about their learning, and begin to make links between the substantive knowledge in History and the skills they will utilise to develop historical enquiry independently.

Mayflower Golden Threads

History makes a direct contribution to the Golden Threads that all curriculum subjects promote. A good understanding of History will deepen the children's understanding of why the Sustainable Development Goals can bring equality and sustainability for all. By learning about historical social justice movements, they will recognise how change can be effected over time. To truly understand History, children need to conduct fieldwork, on-site, and often outdoors, giving them knowledge of how people used to live, and an informed understanding of what drove them to behave in the way that they did.

Miss Paula Atkins (History Co-ordinator)