

History Curriculum Policy

Intent

The children at Mereworth Primary School will develop a well-rounded knowledge and understanding of the past and its events, with the intention to improve every child's understanding of the world around them and their own heritage. At Mereworth we are ambitious about our coverage of History, through teaching historical skills and motivating children with engaging activities, trips and visitors, that will give them an opportunity to question the past.

At Mereworth Primary School we have designed our History curriculum with the intent that our children will become increasingly critical and analytical thinkers. The children will possess a secure understanding of the chronology of important periods of history and discover links and connections to the History they learn with the wider community and locality. It is our intent that the children will be able to differentiate between source types and be able to explain how interpretations in History may differ, as well as drawing on similarities and differences within given time frames and across previously taught historical periods. The children will be able to enquire into historical periods and form their own opinions and interpretations of the past.

Implementation

The History curriculum is lead and overseen by the History Subject leader. The History Subject leader has a regular programme of monitoring, evaluation and review. There is also a celebration of good practice and an ongoing commitment to evolve and further improve teaching and learning in this subject.

At Mereworth we have a blocked curriculum History approach to ensure coverage and progression in all skills relating to History. In EYFS and Key Stage 1, the Historical skills will focus on the world around them and their living memory of History before moving to events that go beyond living History. This will ensure a firm foundation for Key Stage 2 History. In Key Stage 2 the History curriculum is set out in chronological order to allow children to reference the previous events in time and to refer to this prior learning year on year and within the academic year. The progression of skills is set out in order to build and develop the following:

- Chronological Understanding
- Range and depth of Historical knowledge
- Interpretations of History
- Historical enquiry
- Organisation and communication

At Mereworth lessons will develop the children's long term memory by allowing for repetition of learning within the academic year, and also year on year. The use of vocabulary planners support the children's learning of each Historical period by ensuring their understanding of key terminology, to support their learning of important dates within the time studied and give them subject specific vocabulary.

Impact

In History children will become increasingly critical and analytical thinkers. They will make informed and balanced judgements based on their knowledge of the past. The children will become increasingly aware of how Historical events have shaped the world that they currently live in and they will have a further understanding of History on a local level and on a small-scale. The children will develop enquiry skills to pursue their own interests within a topic and develop further questioning. Where applicable, children will participate in high-quality visits and/or visitors to further appreciate the impact of History. Children will be able to retain prior learning and will be able to explicitly make connections between what they have previously learnt and what they are currently learning.

Class teachers are expected to assess children that are working towards the expected standard for each topic. Children are assessed against their knowledge of the subject and the skills they have gained, this then giving an in depth understanding and overview of the class.

Class teachers send the completed assessment documents to the Subject Leader at the end of each topic, so outcomes can be reviewed and discussed. This ensures that any children not meeting year group expectations are identified and support can be put in place. These assessment documents passed up with the cohort so future teachers are aware of the strengths and weaknesses of the class. This gives teachers a strong understanding of whether certain objectives may need revising before knowledge is built on. Teachers at Mereworth Primary School build on prior learning instead of teaching each topic of work in isolation.

The Reception class deliver History content through the 'Understanding of the World' strand of the EYFS curriculum. This involves guiding children to make sense of their physical world and their community through opportunities to explore, observe and find out about people, places, technology and the environment. They are assessed according to the Development Matters attainment targets.