



# Castleton C of E Primary School

## History Policy

**January 2023**

### Introduction

At Castleton C of E Primary School 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. It has been developed through a process of consultation with school staff and governors.

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

- To enhance their knowledge through curriculum breadth experiences, to include, visits to historical sites, museums, talking to members of the school community, use of historical artefacts etc.

## **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 and we use a variety of teaching and learning styles in our history lessons. 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 that are inclusive and follow our skills progression grids.

### **History curriculum planning**

At Castleton C of E Primary School, history is taught through a topic approach alongside Design & Technology, Geography and Art. Our curriculum is carefully planned over a two year cycle for Key Stage One and a three year cycle for Key Stage Two. 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**

At Castleton C of E Primary School 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 with retention and recall of knowledge.

### **Roles and Responsibilities**

The subject is led by the staff as a whole and each year time is set aside to review standards and monitor curriculum provision and ensure training and resources are up to date.

### **Resources**

We have a wide range of text books and interactive boards to access the internet as a class. Visits are planned to enhance learning and give hands on activity. People with an interest, or expertise, in a particular topic or area of history could be invited into school to work with the children. These might be parents, grandparents, other family members, neighbours or representatives of the local community.

### **Equal Opportunities**

The staff and Governors are committed to ensuring that every child in the school will have access to the History Curriculum, whatever their gender, ethnicity, physical or mental abilities. Every attempt is made, therefore, to ensure that materials used are appropriate to a range of abilities, aptitudes and interests and reflect the multicultural society we live in.

### **Monitoring and Evaluating**

Evaluation of the effectiveness of the History Curriculum Policy will be done through:

- Headteacher monitoring of classroom delivery and planning scrutiny
- An annual audit through staff and pupil questionnaires
- Monitoring of children's work through learning walks and scrutinising exercise books
- Involvement of Governors in the monitoring and evaluating of the work in school

Signed: Headteacher .....Date:.....

Signed: Chair of Governors .....Date:.....

Reviewed: Spring 2023