

St Mary's CE Middle School History Statement

"Those who cannot learn from history are doomed to repeat it."

George Santayana

Intent:

Our History Curriculum has been designed to empower learners through curiosity, to develop their own opinions based on a respect for evidence, and to build a deeper understanding of the present by engaging with and constantly questioning the past. Our content seeks to challenge and develop our learners to be critical thinkers, exploring the past as detectives by challenging preconceived conventional narratives through exploration of multiple viewpoints from a diverse selection of perspectives.

At the heart of the History curriculum is the desire to facilitate learner's ability to focus on historical enquiry; engage with a wide range of written and visual interpretations through an evaluation of sources; understand social and cultural diversity and develop the ability to reach substantiated judgements based on a considered assessment of different arguments.

The learning experience of students is at the forefront of planning, therefore materials are regularly reviewed, with planning of lessons building upon previous knowledge and skills gained by students. Our intention is that learning is embedded and sequential to contribute to long term memory, with learning becoming progressively more challenging through the Key Stage 2 to Key Stage 3. The role of women through history is a golden thread weaving through our curriculum which considers their role in society both individually and collectively across various epochs and eras.

'Until the lions have their historians, tales of the hunt shall always glorify the hunter' African proverb

Implementation:

All students extend their knowledge and understanding of key events, periods and societies through an assessment of local, national and wider world history across the Key Stages. At both key stages, the History National curriculum is covered in appropriate depth, over a 2 year period. This is implemented with thoughtful consideration to the topics chosen. Our planning focuses on key enquiry questions to draw together a series of lessons to develop students as independent learners and as critical and reflective thinkers. Second order concepts such as diversity; change and continuity; cause and consequence, and significance are used to direct the learning questions used to inform our curriculum planning. Students are presented with different interpretations of history, allowing them to discover how and why the past has been analysed in various ways.

At St Mary's Middle School, progress is monitored through key assessment points throughout the year in each year in both of our Key Stages with a focus on testing their long term memory, source analysis skills and the ability to reach substantiated, informed judgments.

Impact:

Our history curriculum is high quality and ensures that children have a strong knowledge of historical events, a coherent understanding of chronology and an appreciation of the impact that history has on the modern world. Our students are instilled with a passion for learning about history by gaining knowledge and skills, not just through learning in the classroom, but also through educational visits and visitors; this includes a trip to the British museum for a seminar on the history of Benin and trips to Shire Hall and Tolpuddle for our local study of the Tolpuddle Martyrs and their legacy.

In addition local historians visit to share their specialist knowledge of various periods including Roman Britain and World War One. Our students are confident and able to talk about what they have learnt in history using subject specific vocabulary and are able to recall their learning over time. Through the breadth and depth that our curriculum offers, our students become passionate historians, who are inspired by the subject, are curious to find out more about the past; able to understand how the past links to the present and have an interest in history that will remain with them and continue to develop throughout their lives.