

# History Policy



## Pendragon Community Primary School

**Lead person: Subject Lead – C Scott**

**Reviewed: May 2022**

**Ratified by Governors: 17 May 2022**

**Next Review Due: Autumn 2023**

## Subject policy

### Intent

At Pendragon Primary School, the curriculum is carefully sequenced to ensure that knowledge and skills in all subjects are acquired, retained and built on, year upon year. It is designed to provide first hand learning experiences and to allow the children to develop interpersonal skills, build resilience, be creative and to be critical thinkers. Our curriculum embraces the community in which it is situated, recognising local history, heritage, geographical and business links and most importantly, the aspirations of all our children.

The National Curriculum 2014 sets out the 'Purpose of study' and the following aims relating to history:

- know and understand the history of these islands as a coherent, chronological narrative, from the earliest times to the present day: how people's lives have shaped this nation and how Britain has influenced and been influenced by the wider world
- know and understand significant aspects of the history of the wider world: the nature of ancient civilisations; the expansion and dissolution of empires; characteristic features of past non-European societies; achievements and follies of mankind
- gain and deploy a historically grounded understanding of abstract terms such as 'empire', 'civilisation', 'parliament' and 'peasantry'
- understand historical concepts such as continuity and change, cause and consequence, similarity, difference and significance, and use them to make connections, draw contrasts, analyse trends, frame historically valid questions and create their own structured accounts, including written narratives and analyses
- understand the methods of historical enquiry, including how evidence is used rigorously to make historical claims, and discern how and why contrasting arguments and interpretations of the past have been constructed
- gain historical perspective by placing their growing knowledge into different contexts: understanding the connections between local, regional, national and international history; between cultural, economic, military, political, religious and social history; and between short- and long-term timescales

Our curriculum in Early Years ensures children learn through rich, practical opportunities linked to all seven aspects of the framework and are underpinned by the three effective characteristics of teaching and learning.

Throughout the teaching of history we also endeavour to meet the overarching aims of the school (REACH).

## **Implementation**

- The National Curriculum 2014 sets out the core content to be delivered through the teaching of history.
- The curriculum is organised around 6 Big Questions and threshold concepts – the big ideas in each subject. The 6 Big Questions foster an investigative approach to learning, embracing active learning and problem-solving. The threshold concepts come up time and time again in many topics and help the children to assimilate new information into growing schema.
- Pendragon Primary School's long term curriculum plan for history gives an overview of history coverage from Early Years to Year 6. Teachers use this as the basis for medium and short term planning.
- We endeavour to ensure learning in history is an engaging, creative and meaningful experience for all children. Links are made between subjects; and enrichment activities, such as trips, visitors, special days and weeks are regularly planned as part of our cultural guarantee.
- Discrete history lessons are taught regularly or as blocked units of work relating to a particular 'Big Question'. The application of skills and knowledge learned in one subject to a new context or a different subject is encouraged.

## **Impact**

Through well thought out curriculum design, our pupils acquire a deep body of learning over time. Opportunities to make interconnected links to prior learning and regular retrieval practice enable them to build up a bank of skills and knowledge and showcase their understanding. The impact of the curriculum is evident in the curriculum products that the children produce. These products not only showcase their learning but provide opportunities to apply that learning in more complex or abstract contexts.

## **Equal opportunities and Inclusion**

See Pendragon Primary's Equality statement in our school brochure

## **Assessment, Record keeping and reporting**

- See Pendragon Primary's assessment policy

## **Monitoring and evaluation**

- The history subject leader, under supervision of the governors, headteacher and curriculum lead (SLT), is responsible for ongoing monitoring and evaluation in order to ensure high standards and improved outcomes across the subject.
- A subject action plan is shared and reviewed annually.

