

History Policy

Leasingham St. Andrew's Church of
England Primary School

'Everything you do, do in love'



Reviewed and updated: February 2025

Next review: February 2028

1). Rationale and Principles

The school aims to provide opportunities for the children to develop an interest in the past and develop historical skills which will allow them to investigate the past and further their understanding.

This policy aims to outline the purpose, nature and management of the history taught in our school.

Through the teaching of history, we aim to reflect and live-out the vision of Leasingham St. Andrew's Church of England Primary School.

Everything you do, do in love'

At St Andrew's, we seek to be a safe and happy environment, inspiring our school family to be positive participants in the world community. A place where we are all encouraged, through love and service, to be the very best.

John 13:34 'Love one another, as I have loved you'

We aim to demonstrate the following 'golden threads' through the subject of history.

- High aspirations permeate across the school.
- The school offers a host of cultural experiences and enrichment opportunities.
- Our children develop a love of life-long reading.
- British Values are an intrinsic part of the school.

2). Intent

History at Leasingham St Andrew's Church of England Primary School plans to give all children a broad and balanced view of the history of Britain and other societies and epochs. It is taught not just because it is a National Curriculum subject but because a study of history ensures children will develop a well-rounded knowledge of the past and its events, with an intention to improve every child's cultural capital, understanding of the world around them and of their own heritage. In our school the teaching of history inspires curiosity about the past and how it has shaped the world in which we live today. History teaching at Leasingham St Andrew's Church of England Primary School focuses on enabling children to think like historians. Our

curriculum is planned to ensure historical knowledge is taught alongside the development of subject specific skills including chronology, interpretations of evidence, changes within a time and across time periods and cause and consequence.

The study of history plays a key role in our 'golden threads' as it offers pupils the ability to learn about different cultures and societies from the past and how we have learnt and benefitted from them. There is a clear focus on the exploration of British values and how the growth of democracy and respect for others have developed through the history of not only the United Kingdom but those countries and citizens of the Commonwealth and beyond who have had such a positive impact on our lives.

Our history teaching uses an enquiry process by asking and answering questions and using key vocabulary which shapes the learning and allows the pupils to learn for themselves.

3). Implementation

The history curriculum uses a spiral approach to embed understanding of the key concepts for each Key Stage. Children will use their vocabulary and knowledge to make connections and develop their empathy for and understanding of people in the past. Working like historians, through speaking and listening and evaluating sources, the children will learn critical awareness while searching for answers and drawing conclusions. Learning through narratives, questioning and by continuously building upon and developing historical skills, children will be able to express their interpretation of the key abstract concepts such as: development, trade, tax, invasion and civilisations. Following the progression grids allows teachers to plan and teach lessons that focus on the substantive and disciplinary knowledge children need in order to make connections with previous learning as well as develop new understandings. Each unit asks a 'Big Question' that encourages deep thinking, oracy and using the vocabulary learned across the term. Authentic primary and secondary sources are used in lessons where possible, to allow children to explore artefacts, watch media and read high-quality texts in their journey to become historians. Enriching the curriculum with trips, and developing cultural capital inspire discussion, questioning and contextual vocabulary through bringing history to life.

4). Impact

By weaving the key concepts through all the units in the history curriculum, children will develop an understanding of how the society in which they live was formed. Their ability to appreciate similarities and differences with other cultures and societies will help them to become responsible, tolerant and curious citizens of the future, equipped to find answers to questions and evaluate information. Practising both these transferable skills and discipline specific skills will enable children to confidently take their place in the wider world. The children will know more and remember more, with the majority of children achieving age-related expectations in history.

5). Role of the Subject Leader

At Leasingham St Andrew's Church of England Primary School, the role of the history subject leader is to ensure that children make sufficient progress through each year group, acquiring and applying key knowledge. This will be achieved by:

- Securing high quality teaching.
- Ensuring that planning meets the requirements of the school's agreed curriculum.
- Monitoring the effective use of resources.
- Having oversight of curriculum coverage and ensuring that the curriculum meets national requirements.
- Developing assessment and record keeping, ensuring progression and continuity.
- Ensuring that colleagues are aware of expectations and supporting them in teaching the subject through the progressive and sequenced curriculum map.
- Action planning for future development.
- Ensuring that appropriate resources are in place to deliver a rich and challenging curriculum.
- Monitoring the effectiveness of teaching and the impact on learning and standards.
- Evaluating and summarising all aspects of the subject to define next steps for improvement.
- Keeping abreast of development in subject education and media usage.

6). Assessment

At Leasingham St. Andrew's Church of England Primary School, we assess the children's work in history by making informal judgements as we observe the children during lessons. At the end of each long term (Autumn, Spring and Summer), teachers will make a judgment as to whether each child is on track for end of year expectations, as outlined in the history curriculum map. This is recorded on the school's online assessment system, Insight. Judgements are as follows:

- Below
- Just Below
- On Track
- Greater Depth

Class teachers keep the children's history work in topic books.

7). History and ICT

At Leasingham St. Andrew's Church of England Primary School, ICT plays an integral part in the teaching and learning of history. Clear links to ICT are made in planning and every opportunity to explore links with ICT are used.

8). Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS)

In Reception, history is taught as an integral part of topic work covered during the year. In the EYFS, history is about the children having the opportunities to find out and learn about the world they live in and discover the meaning of new and old in relation to their own lives. The history side of the children's work is related to the Knowledge and Understanding of the World objectives set out in the EYFS Curriculum.

9). Differentiation including catering for children with Special Educational Needs

At Leasingham St. Andrew's Church of England Primary School, we aim to encourage all children to reach their full potential in history through the provision of varied opportunities and responding and adapting our teaching to the children's individual needs. We recognise that our curriculum planning must allow children to gain a progressively deeper understanding and competency as they move through our school. Children with specific needs, such as those in receipt of an Educational Health Care Plan (EHCP) will work on outcomes suited to their own abilities.

10). Equal Opportunities

At Leasingham St. Andrew's Church of England Primary School, all children will be given equal access to history irrespective of race, gender and creed, level of ability or nationality. Mutual respect and tolerance for all cultures will be promoted through the study of history.

11). Resources

At Leasingham St. Andrew's Church of England Primary School, all history topics have resource boxes containing a range of resources to aid the teaching of that subject. Resources are audited regularly and reviewed through discussion with teachers.

12). Monitoring and Evaluation

To monitor and evaluate history, the subject leader:

- Supports teachers via explaining the progressive curriculum map, discussing the key concepts in history, co-planning, team teaching, observing and giving feedback.
- Monitors teachers' medium-term planning against the progression contained in the curriculum map.
- Reviews resource provision.
- Works co-operatively with the SENDCo.
- Reviews the progress with implementing this policy in the school with the Headteacher and/or subject governor.

The school's governor monitoring programme includes monitoring of individual subjects by governors, to support and challenge the subject leaders.

13). Disability and Equality Statement

This policy has been written with reference to and in consideration of the school's Disability Equality Scheme. Assessment will include consideration of issues identified by the involvement of disabled children, staff and parents and any information the school holds on disabled children, staff and parents.

Any questions or concerns regarding this policy should be made to the Headteacher.