



Katherine Semar Schools

HISTORY POLICY

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Katherine Semar Schools

HISTORY POLICY

INSPIRE CURRICULUM

At Katherine Semar Schools we have developed the INSPIRE curriculum, which is underpinned by what we believe makes an outstanding curriculum for our children; offering them opportunities to question, be challenged, investigate, experience, communicate, create and understand. Learning is developed in a cross-curricular approach wherever appropriate and the children are given real contexts for their learning which motivate them by creating a genuine purpose for learning.

OUR AIMS IN HISTORY – What do we want to do?

The aim of history teaching here at Katherine Semar Schools is to stimulate the children's interest and understanding about the life of people who lived in the past. We teach children a sense of chronology, and, through this, they develop a sense of identity, and a cultural understanding based on their historical heritage. Thus, they learn to value their own and other people's cultures in modern multi-cultural Britain and, by considering how people lived in the past, they are better able to make their own life choices today. In our school, history makes a significant contribution to citizenship education by teaching about how Britain developed as a democratic society. We teach children to understand how events in the past have influenced our lives today; we also teach them to investigate these past events and, by so doing, to develop the skills of enquiry, analysis, interpretation and problem-solving.

In-line with the National Curriculum 2014 we aim to ensure pupils:

- 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 IMPLEMENTATION – How will we achieve our aims?

History long term plan

- Each year group will teach the areas of History identified in the school's long term plan to ensure coverage of statutory knowledge and skills.
- The school's History progression of skills will be used to identify the learning objectives for each year group, in line with the school's raised expectations.

Cross-curricular learning and real world contexts.

- Wherever possible, a cross-curricular approach will be taken to the teaching of History. Lessons will often be linked to children's learning in English.

Topic launch and land

- Each half term topic will begin with a cross-curricular launch event to engage and motivate the children. This will also act as 'knowledge harvest' allowing teachers to assess children's existing knowledge and skills in order to adapt planning and ensure appropriate levels of challenge for all children.
- Each half term will end with a land event which celebrates children's learning and progress. This will involve the children communicating their learning in some way, for example exhibitions or assemblies.

Visits, visitors and historical sources

- We give children the opportunity to visit sites of historical significance.
- We encourage visitors to come into the school and talk about their experiences of events in the past.
- We invite experts to deliver whole-day experience events for our children.
- We place an emphasis on examining historical artefacts and primary sources.

Challenge and Support for all Learners

- We understand that every learner develops differently and adapt our provision continuously to ensure every child receives the correct balance of support and challenge in order to achieve their very best. We recognise this fact and provide suitable learning opportunities for all children (including those who may be gifted and talented or have additional needs) by matching the challenge of the task to the ability of the child. Each child is valued, respected and challenged regardless of ability, race, gender, religion, social background, culture or disability.

Assessment

- We use MAPP (Mapping attainment and progress for pupils) to assess children's progress against the expectations of our INSPIRE curriculum. We assess children against both the requirements and standards of the National Curriculum as well as our school's own raised expectations for all children.

OUR MONITORING – How will we monitor the effectiveness of our history policy?

At Katherine Semar we believe that the most effective way to monitor the impact of our history policy is to utilise and triangulate a broad range of moderating activities, involve our stakeholders, and apply these regularly, consistently and robustly. Through our annual Monitoring, Evaluation and Review cycle, we employ the following monitoring activities in history:

- **Lesson Observations and Learning Walks**

Senior Leaders and Subject Co-ordinators regularly undertake planned and unplanned lesson observations and learning walks. These have a clear focus and feedback and findings are used to inform individual and whole-school Continuing Professional Development (CPD), School Development Planning and future monitoring activities.

- **MAPP (Mapping attainment and progress for pupils)**

We use MAPP to assess children's progress against the expectations of our INSPIRE curriculum. We assess children against both the requirements and standards of the National Curriculum as well as our school's own raised expectations for all children. This is analysed annually and used to inform our school development plan.

- **Work Scrutinies**

- Work scrutinies are carried out by subject coordinators, Senior Leadership Team and whole staff.

- **Governor Visits**

- As part of the Governors' Monitoring, Evaluation and Review cycle, lead governors in each subject, make regular visits to school to monitor progress towards the school development plan.
- Monitoring activities include a range of teaching and learning observations, discussions with subject co-ordinators, and meetings with pupils, visits to subject specific celebration assemblies, work scrutinies and subject leader reports.

- **Pupil interviews**

- Senior staff, subject co-ordinators and governors take regular opportunities to listen to the views of pupils in relation to their experience of history at our school and their feedback actively informs subject development through our curriculum action plan.