



Elmhurst Primary School

History Policy

Vision for History

Through exploration of a diverse range of historical events and periods from the Stone Age to explorers within our lifetime, Elmhurst Primary School will develop an impassioned, informed and critical understanding of the history of Britain and the wider world. Pupils will study historical periods, the effects of the Empire (particularly on trade and slavery), historical changes during different periods, and significant events and people. The enquiry-rich curriculum will stimulate the children to think critically about the evidence they have to make their own judgements and develop questions to encourage them to discover more.

Aims

Children will:

- develop an awareness of a range of periods of history, cultures and significant events
- understand how significant events or people change practice
- utilise skills of enquiry, research, hypothesising and critical thinking whilst analysing evidence
- develop their empathy and demonstrate it through writing tasks, for example diary entries
- actively investigate primary and secondary source materials and select from a range of sources (such as original photographs, paintings, newspaper articles, artefacts, oral recollection, internet) before reaching their own conclusions
- consider the impact different cultures have had on Britain and question what it is to be British
- consider the similarities and differences between historical periods
- question evidence to form their own opinions, which may differ from others
- question their own sense of place, belonging and identity
- utilise a range of drama strategies to aid writing and engage their historical imagination, such as hot seating, freeze frames, thought tracking and conscience alley
- undertake educational visits to apply historical skills, knowledge and develop understanding
- develop an understanding of black history through the annual Black History Week

Curriculum

The Elmhurst History curriculum shares the sentiments of the 2014 National Curriculum in wanting the following:

A high-quality history education will help pupils gain a coherent knowledge and understanding of Britain's past and that of the wider world. It should inspire pupils' curiosity to know more about the past. Teaching should equip pupils to ask perceptive questions, think critically, weigh evidence, sift arguments, and develop perspective and judgement.

History helps pupils to understand the complexity of people's lives, the process of change, the diversity of societies and relationships between different groups, as well as their own identity and the challenges of their time.

DfE (2013)

Taking the National Curriculum as a starting point, the Elmhurst History Curriculum will foster a love of history so that the children discover the story of the human past. They will hone a range of skills over the years: enquiry, hypothesising, empathising, thinking critically and coming to conclusions. Through educational visits to museums and historic sites they will develop their knowledge and understanding. They will understand how people and events in history have shaped the world they live in and particularly impacted on Britain. The curriculum will draw from the professional and academic expertise of the Elmhurst staff, and from external consultants and organisations.

The combination of the above will form a rigorous, ambitious and enquiry-led curriculum, which will see pupils build their historical knowledge and skills and sequentially that will foster curiosity and fascination for the history of the world they live in.