

St James' Lanehead Church of England Primary School



History Policy

Date of Policy:	October 2025
Person Responsible:	Mrs L Hargreaves
Review Date:	October 2027

Our Mission

Our church school seeks to inspire each individual to flourish, grow and learn with Jesus
at the heart of all we do.

St James' Lanehead C of E (VA) Primary School

History Policy

Our philosophy

At St James' Lanehead C of E Primary School, we believe that the past influences all aspects of our lives today. History gives us a sense of identity and we believe that the past has shaped the customs and beliefs of the communities to which we belong. As a school, we believe that history plays an essential part in preparing us for living and working in the contemporary world.

Aims

Through the teaching of history, we aim to inspire children's curiosity and provide opportunities to develop children's sense of identity through gaining an understanding of the past in relation to themselves, their families, their communities and the wider world. By enabling children to learn and understand something about the past and its influence on life today, we aim to help prepare our young people for life in our contemporary and multi-cultural society.

History offers opportunities for children to:

- Learn about the experiences of people in the past and consider why they acted as they did
- Develop respect for, and tolerance of, other people and cultures
- Learn how individuals in the past have worked to change the society in which they lived
- Develop respect for evidence but be able to treat it critically and with objectivity
- Develop an understanding of right and wrong, and the ability to handle moral dilemmas in a responsible way
- Develop an understanding of their own history and of the history of their families
- Learn about ancient civilisations from Europe and the wider world and how these have affected our lives today
- Learn about important developments in Britain's past and gain an understanding of the effects of these developments on the modern world

Curriculum

At St James' Lanehead C of E Primary, children undertake a broad and balanced programme that takes account of abilities, aptitudes and physical, emotional and intellectual development. Through history our children learn a range of skills, concepts, attitudes and methods of working.

Early Years

History is taught in Reception as an integral part of topic work through child-initiated and adult led activities. The children are given the opportunity to find out about past and present events in their own lives, as well as those of their families and other people they know. In the Foundation stage history makes a significant contribution to developing a child's understanding of the world through activities such as looking at pictures of famous people in history or discovering the meaning of new and old in relation to their own lives. This is delivered through 'Understanding the World' – 'Past and Present'.

Key Stage 1

During Key Stage 1, pupils learn about people's lives and lifestyles. They find out about significant men, women, children and events from the recent and more distant past in Britain and the wider world. They listen and respond to stories and use sources of information to help them ask and answer questions. They learn how the past is different from the present.

Key Stage 2

During Key Stage 2, pupils learn about significant people, events and places from both the recent and more distant past. They learn about change and continuity in their own area, in Britain and in other parts of the world. They look at history in a variety of ways, for example from political, economic, technological and social perspectives. They use different sources of information to help them investigate the past both in depth and in overview, using dates and historical vocabulary to describe events, people and developments. They also learn that the past can be represented and interpreted in different ways.

Curriculum

In Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2, children follow a rolling programme to ensure the requirements of the National Curriculum are met by the end of each key stage, due to our mixed age classes. History is taught every other half term and Kapow is used as the starting point for planning. Each unit has a big question and each lesson has its own 'Learning Question' that the children investigate. Within

the curriculum, the following concepts are covered:

Childhood, Settlements, Individuals, Leadership, Civilisation, Invasion and Justice.

There are opportunities to enhance the curriculum through educational visits and visitors into school.

Guidelines

1. All children are given equal opportunities to follow the National Curriculum for History.

2. Work is planned to ensure progression of content and skills across each Key Stage, appropriate to the children's ages and abilities. Where the same unit is being taught, progression will be seen across the different year groups in the activities and skills they are working on.

3. Cross-curricular links are made with other subjects, including ICT, where appropriate.

4. Children are encouraged to learn about the past from a variety of historical sources and reference materials and to develop a sense of chronology within which they can organise their understanding of the past.

5. Children are taught about the diversities of the societies studied, the experiences of both men and women, and to consider human influence on the environment and on the lives of others.

6. All children are made aware of Health and Safety issues when undertaking work in History.