

Intent, Implementation and Impact

The town of Maryport is full of history. Around 122AD, the Romans built a fort on our doorstep and the local Senhouse Roman Museum has a collection of objects that derive from the fort and the Roman civil settlement. This provides rich opportunities to engage children in their immediate local area and understand their own history (making it relevant to the lives of the children) and how history contributes to a greater overall understanding and bigger picture.

Intent

At Maryport CofE Primary School we shape our history curriculum to ensure it is fully inclusive to every child allowing them to ‘Learn, Achieve and Shine’. Our aims are to fulfil the requirements of the National Curriculum for history; providing a broad balanced and differentiated curriculum that encompasses the British Values throughout; ensuring the progressive development of historical concepts, knowledge and skills; and for the children to study life in the past.

Our four key substantive knowledge strands are:

* Invasion and conflict
* Empire and Civilisation
* Monarchy and Power
* Invention and Innovation

These themes run throughout our history curriculum and allow our children to recognise the impact and influence key historical events and eras have had on both Britain and the world up to the modern day. It is our intent to deliver a high-quality history curriculum which inspires the pupils’ curiosity and fascination about Britain’s past and that of the wider world. We aim to create cross-curricular links where possible and to ensure pupils become equipped to ask perceptive questions, think critically, ponder evidence, and develop perspective and judgement. We aim for our teaching to equip pupils with knowledge about the history of Britain and how it has influenced and been influenced by the wider world; know and understand about significant aspects of the history of the wider world like ancient civilisations and empires; changes in living memory and beyond living memory; explore the lives of significant people of the past; understand the method of historical enquiry and be able to ask and answer questions.

Implementation

At Maryport CofE Primary School, we ensure that history has the same importance given to it as the core subjects, as we feel this is important in enabling all children to gain ‘real-life’ experiences. The subject has a high profile across the school with displays celebrating children’s work visible throughout. History is taught as part of a half-termly topic, focusing on the knowledge and skills stated in the National Curriculum so that children achieve depth in their learning. In ensuring high standards of teaching and learning in history, we implement a curriculum that is progressive throughout the whole school. Following CPD from Alex Bedford, we have adopted some sequences of learning and we utilise the Key Stage History site to shape our planning. Knowledge organisers are created for each unit of work and outline the key knowledge and vocabulary necessary to develop a sophisticated schema. They ensure that all pupils become culturally literate and have the opportunity to engage with powerful knowledge. Within our knowledge-rich approach, there is a strong emphasis on people and the community of our local area.

The key skills taught in the history curriculum at Maryport CofE Primary School are: chronological understanding, continuity and change, knowledge and understand of events in the past, historical interpretation and historical enquiry. We want children to enjoy and love learning about history by gaining this knowledge and skills, not just through experiences in the classroom, but through the use of fieldwork and educational visits.

The Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) follows the ‘Birth to 5’ guidance which aims for all children in Foundation Stage to have an ‘Understanding of the world’ by the end of the academic year. By the end of Year 6, children will have a chronological understanding of British history from the Stone Age to the present day.

Impact

The school supports every child in developing their historical knowledge and skills. Regular and ongoing assessment informs teaching, as well as intervention, to support and enable the success of each child. Outcomes in history books evidence a broad and balanced history curriculum and demonstrate the children’s acquisition of identified key knowledge. Children complete low-stake quizzes at the beginning and the end of every unit of work to provide a measure of their knowledge. Misconceptions and gaps are addressed in the end of unit quiz if a common area is identified. Within the plenary of each lesson, children jot down what they have learnt in that lesson and keep adding to it throughout the unit. Teachers are to use the low-stakes quizzes, plenary activity and formative assessments within lessons to make their judgement of a summative assessment for each child. The measure of this is to ensure that children at Maryport CofE Primary School are equipped with historical skills and knowledge that will enable them to be ready for the curriculum at Key Stage 3 and for life as an adult in the wider world. We want the children to have thoroughly enjoyed learning about history, therefore encouraging them to undertake new life experiences now and in the future.