**History at St Augustine’s Primary School**

**2023 – 2024**

The study of history can bring pupils into a rich dialogue with the past and with the traditions of historical enquiry. Through history, pupils come to understand their place in the world, and in the long story of human development. The study of history challenges pupils to make sense of the striking similarities and vast differences in human experiences across time and place. Pupils learn how historians and others construct accounts about the past.

**The Journey Begins…**

In EYFS, history is included within “Understanding of the World”, where pupils learn about history through the Early Learning Goal ‘Past and Present’. Pupils are encouraged to talk about members of their immediate family and community, name and describe people who are familiar to them, comment on images of familiar situations in the past and compare and contrast characters from stories including figures from the past. This helps pupils to develop awareness of the past, which is then built upon in Year 1 when pupils’ understanding of the past starts to develop into an awareness of a chronological framework in which people and events can be placed. They do this through looking at changes within and beyond living memory such as **Toys in the Past,** and through investigating the lives of significant **Women in History.**

Pupils’ chronological framework is further enhanced in Year 2 when they study key events such as the **Great Fire of London**, building upon their understanding of how we find out about the past by asking and answering questions. Pupils also build upon their studies of **Women in History** by **Comparing Monarchs** which allows them to develop the skill of identifying similarities and differences between periods to an even greater degree than in Year 1.

Key Stage 2 is sequenced chronologically, to help pupils build a rich understanding of change and continuity in British, local and world history. Pupils study local and British history, and a history of the wider world in parallel. Starting with a study of the Stone and Iron Age in Year 3, leading on to the impact that the Roman Empire had on the island. In Year 4, we see changes under the Anglo-Saxon and Vikings. This allows pupils to understand the history of these islands as a coherent, chronological narrative. Throughout Key Stage 2, pupils also study Ancient Civilisations and aspects of the wider world starting in Year 3 and 4 with Comparing Ancient Civilisations, including Greece and Egypt, and this links with the Roman Empire which is also explored. In Year 5, pupils will extend their chronological knowledge beyond 1066 by studying a significant turning point in British History, the Home Front during World War II. In Year 6, pupils complete thematic studies of Changing Power of the Monarchy and Victorian Britain and the Industrial Revolution which allows them to establish clear narratives across the periods studies, and note connections, contrasts and trends over time.

**Progression through the Threshold Concepts**

Within history, there are 4 key elements, which combined, ensure that our pupils can access a deep understanding of the subject. Pupils make progress in history by developing their knowledge about the past (this knowledge is often described as ‘substantive knowledge’) and their knowledge about how historians investigate the past, and how they construct historical claims, arguments and accounts (often described as ‘disciplinary knowledge’). The threshold concepts relate to different aspects of disciplinary knowledge, and substantive knowledge is vital to all of them.

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**Chronology**

Developing pupils’ chronological understanding underpins the sequencing of the history curriculum, as indicated above. Pupils develop their understanding of the past as a concept in EYFS, by placing people and events in a historical framework in Key Stage 1. This historical framework becomes more comprehensive at Key Stage 2 where pupils develop a chronologically secure knowledge and understanding of the broad characteristics and features of British, local and world history from the Stone Age to beyond 1066.

**Thinking like a Historian**

Progressing from understanding themselves and their families at EYFS, at Key Stage 1 pupils start to ask questions about historical events and people. Through this pupils learn about and understand key features of events in the past. Consequently, they are also then able to compare aspects of life in different historical periods through significant individuals in the past. This evolves at Key Stage 2 into pupils developing their understanding of the disciplinary concepts of cause, consequence, change and continuity, similarity and difference, and historical significance. Pupils learn how to explain how or why events happen, their consequences, the extent, nature and pace of historical change, similarities and differences between people, groups, experiences or places, and why historical events and individuals are significant

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**Investigating the Past**

This Threshold Concept is concerned with how historians investigate the past. Through EYFS and Key Stage 1 pupils will understand some of the ways in which we find out about the past and identify different ways it is represented. As pupils progress to Key Stage 2 they will develop an understanding of how interpretations of the past are constructed, making inferences about the past through analysis of contemporary historical sources and conducting historical enquiry about the reliability of sources. Pupils will identify the difference between a source and an interpretation, and recognise how historians use sources as evidence to construct, challenge or test claims about the past. While making inferences about the past from sources, pupils will use their contextual knowledge to support inferences and analyse and evaluate the reliability/usefulness of sources based on their provenance and the pupils’ knowledge of the context. Pupils will also learn the idea of misconceptions about sources and evidence.

**Communicating History**

This Threshold Concept is concerned with how to write about the past. This includes using historical terms and vocabulary; in EYFS pupils will use common words and phrases to describe the past and the passing of time. In Key Stage 1 pupils will begin to use a wide range of vocabulary of everyday historical terms and be able to select sources to recall events of the past. Through Key Stage 2 pupils will select historical terms appropriately, including tier 2 and tier 3 vocabulary, as well as use abstract terms. Pupils will ask and answer questions and construct arguments and reach conclusions.

**CURRICULUM COVERAGE – SEND**

The BHCET History curriculum has been designed to be delivered to the whole class. However, the tasks are adapted by class teachers to meet the needs of individual children. To ensure pupils with SEND achieve well, they should be exposed to the same learning as their peers; however, the way they evidence their learning through the tasks can be adapted.

Through scaffolding, tasks can be adapted to ensure all learners can access and evidence the same threshold concepts and learning objectives as their non-SEND counterparts. Scaffolding strategies can include providing sentence starters, a writing frame, and vocabulary banks, sorting and matching cards or visual prompts. Reactive or proactive adaptations can make the BHCET curriculum accessible and achievable for all.

Other strategies of adaptation are outlined through the EEF’s Five-a-Day principles, which include explicit instruction, metacognitive strategies, flexible grouping and the use of technology:

**Scaffolding**

‘Scaffolding’ is a metaphor for temporary support that is removed when it is no longer required. Initially, a teacher would provide enough support so that pupils can successfully complete tasks that they could not do independently. This requires effective assessment to gain a precise understanding of the pupil’s current capabilities.

Examples: Support could be visual, verbal, or written. Writing frames, partially completed examples, knowledge organisers, sentence starters can all be useful. Reminders of what equipment is needed for each lesson and classroom routines can be useful. Scaffolding discussion of texts: promoting prediction, questioning, clarification and summarising

**Explicit instruction**

Explicit instruction refers to a range of teacher-led approaches, focused on teacher demonstration followed by guided practice and independent practice. Explicit instruction is not just  “teaching by telling” or  “transmission teaching”

**Cognitive and metacognitive strategies**

Cognitive strategies are skills like memorisation techniques or subject specific strategies like methods to solve problems in maths. Metacognitive strategies help pupils plan, monitor and evaluate their learning

Examples: Chunking the task will support pupils with SEND – this may be through provision of checklists, instructions on a whiteboard or providing one question at a time. This helps reduce distractions to avoid overloading working memory.

Prompt sheets that help pupils to evaluate their progress, with ideas for further support.

Flexible grouping

Flexible grouping describes when pupils are allocated to smaller groups based on the individual needs that they currently share with other pupils. Such groups can be formed for an explicit purpose and disbanded when that purpose is met

Examples: Allocating temporary groups can allow teachers to set up opportunities for collaborative learning, for example to read and analyse source texts, complete graphic organisers, independently carry out a skill, remember a fact, or understand a concept. Pre-teaching key vocabulary, is a useful technique.

Use technology

Technology can assist teacher modelling. Technology, as a method to provide feedback to pupils and/ or parents can be effective, especially when the pupil can act on this feedback. Examples: Use a visualizer to model worked examples. Technology applications, such as online quizzes can prove effective. Speech generating apps to enable note-taking and extended writing can be helpful.