

History and SMSC

At St Ignatius Catholic Primary school, we believe that History provides significant opportunities for children to develop Spiritually, Morally, Socially and culturally:

SPIRITUAL – The study of History involves a sense of curiosity and the mystery of how and why events in the past happened. It also raises questions as to what could have happened if events resulted in different outcomes. Artefacts, and visits to historical sites, are used to give children a sense of the past and aid children in understanding the significant individuals who produced and used these objects. Children are encouraged to explore the role played by important individuals, for good or ill, in the shaping of the world we live in. Children also reflect upon different interpretations of the past and how these interpretations have been arrived at. Through their study of history children explore beliefs outside of their own. They learn about how to respect faiths and others feelings and values and they link their learning to their own knowledge of values e.g., British Values, PEARL Values and the Protected Characteristics.

MORAL – Children are asked to consider and comment on moral questions and dilemmas. Events and beliefs in the past will often be at odds with what we would consider unacceptable today. Children will be encouraged to show compassion for people facing dilemmas and to empathise with decisions which people in the past made and the reasoning behind these decisions. Notions of right and wrong are explored in connection with events from the past, linking with the value of justice. Children will understand consequences, which links to their learning in RHE, and offer reasoned views. Children will develop empathy through learning to see things from other perspectives e.g., life as a child during World War Two. Pupils will explore what we mean by truth in history – studying primary sources-examining census data and ordnance survey maps in Key Stage 2, comparing information from sources and studying first-hand reports. Their moral development will be shown by their ability to differentiate between right and wrong and to readily apply this understanding to their own lives. Their moral development will also be shown by their ability to understand the consequences of their behaviour and actions.

SOCIAL – Children will explore the similarities and contrasts between past and present societies and be made aware of how, in the main, we are very fortunate to live in 'the modern world'. They will examine how other cultures have had a major impact on the development of 'British' culture. Children will also be encouraged to build up their own social development through collaborative and team working activities. The study of social issues is a common theme in History lessons. Children will learn about social issues in past societies and how past societies were organised and functioned. They will also discuss and evaluate the qualities, skills and attitudes of famous people from the past. Children will appreciate diverse viewpoints and will learn how to participate in discussions, resolve

conflict and co-operate with others through their history lessons. Children will engage with the British Values of democracy, rule of law, individual liberty, mutual respect and tolerance. Their social development will be shown by their use of a range of social skills in different contexts, for example working and socialising with other pupils, including those from different backgrounds to their own. Children will be encouraged to build up their own social development through collaborative and team-working activities.

CULTURAL – Children will study, and be encouraged to gain an understanding of and empathise with, people from different cultural backgrounds. They will examine how other cultures have had a major impact on the development of 'British' culture. Children develop a better understanding of our multicultural society through studying links between local, British, European and world History. Children will participate in cultural opportunities that help them to understand, accept, respect and celebrate diversity.

Examples of Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural Development in History include:

- Causes of world events, for example WWII.
- The role of individuals in shaping world events, for example Julius Caesar and Henry VIII.
- Exploration of the ideas of tolerance and empathy consistently throughout History lessons.
- Opportunities to explore the beliefs and values from past societies and from a range of different countries, using this information to compare with their own values and beliefs and also those of modern Britain.
 - Questioning the moral codes of different societies.
 - Examining the Bayeux Tapestry and the story it tells.
- Exploring the treatment and persecution of minorities in Hitler's Germany.
- Exploring British values through the British parliamentary system.