History

At Christ Church CE Primary our carefully sequenced progressive history curriculum is designed to be accessible to every child. Our aims are not only to fulfil the requirements of the National Curriculum for History; providing a broad, balanced and differentiated curriculum that encompasses recognised British Values throughout; ensuring the progressive development of historical concepts, vocabulary, knowledge and skills; and for the children to study life in the past but for our pupils to develop a lifelong passion and interest in history. To facilitate this our pupils are provided with our Christ Church History Knowledge Organiser for each topic which is also shared with parents at the beginning of each term to specify the knowledge, skills and vocabulary to be acquired and an overview of content.

Intent

At Christ Church, we aim for a high-quality thoughtfully sequenced history curriculum which should inspire in pupils a curiosity and fascination about Britain's past and that of the wider world. Our teaching equips pupils with knowledge about the history of Britain both within the local area of Bootle, Liverpool and beyond and how it has influenced and been influenced by the wider world. In line with the national curriculum, the curriculum at Christ Church aims to ensure that all pupils gain a coherent knowledge and understanding of history as a subject. Pupils are encouraged to ask perceptive questions, think critically, analyse evidence and develop perspective and judgement. We want children to enjoy and love learning about history by gaining this knowledge and skills, not just through experiences in the classroom, but also with the use of fieldwork and educational visits.

Implementation

In ensuring high standards of teaching and learning in history, we implement a curriculum that is progressive throughout the whole school. History is taught as part of a half-termly topic, focusing on knowledge and skills stated in the National Curriculum. At Christ Church, we ensure that history is a crucial element of our curriculum, as we feel this is vital in enabling all children to gain 'real-life' insights into the past. For example, studying significant historical events, people and places in their own locality in Key Stage 1, to knowing aspects of history significant to their locality in Lower Key Stage 2, through to looking at an in-depth local history study in Upper Key Stage 2. The key knowledge and skills of each topic have been identified and consideration has been given to ensure progression across topics throughout each year group across the school. Although topics are not always taught in chronological order pupils gain a coherent understanding of the past as topics are introduced in relation to their chronological context and compared to the chronological context of previous topics they have studied. By the end of year 6, children will have a chronological understanding of British history from the Stone age to the present day. Cross curricular links are also made in English lessons across school, in which tier three historical vocabulary is embedded through carefully selected texts. Through providing a high-quality history curriculum we endeavour for pupils to be familiar with and use the language of a historian within their lessons.

In order to further engage our pupils and enhance their historical knowledge we provide opportunities to visit museums and local historical sites that are associated with the topics they are studying. For example, Lower Key Stage 2 visit Port Sunlight to learn more about Lord Lever and how he influenced our local area. As a school we have taken part in several local Heritage Projects in association with Bootle Library providing our pupils, parents and wider community with opportunities to learn more about the history of Bootle and how it has changed over time. Our History Ambassadors give pupils the opportunity to work with our History Subject Leader to continually develop our History Curriculum. Our History Subject Leader also provides learning opportunities through our History Club delivered to Key Stage One and Two pupils after school. Pupils are also encouraged to apply and embed their knowledge and skills to a History-based project each term as part of our Christ Church home-school partnership.

Impact

The impact and measure of this is to ensure that children at Christ Church are equipped with historical skills and knowledge of historical periods that will enable them to be ready for the curriculum at Key Stage 3 and for life as an adult in the wider world. Emphasis is placed on analytical thinking and questioning which helps pupils gain a coherent knowledge and understanding of Britain's past and that of 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. Heritage projects provide further relevant and contextual learning, engaging members of the community in children's learning and providing positive role models from the community for children to learn from. In the future, we plan to continue to provide additional experiences and opportunities whereby the children can learn and gain historical knowledge and skills from outside professionals.