

Our History Curriculum

Our vision

At St John's, we believe that it is important for all children to form a clear sense of their own identity as a child growing up in the north-east of England. The purpose of our history curriculum is to enable all children to achieve this by understanding how the themes of community, migration, empire, sustainability and innovation have shaped all our lives. Following these strands, we have identified core knowledge across the units our children need to make informed conclusions about our history.

Curriculum intent

Our intent is to deliver the national curriculum in such a way that children are able to form a sense of their own identity and make cohesive sense of the vast scope of human history. At St John's, we build children's knowledge of history around four key concepts:

1. Chronology, change and continuity helps children build a coherent picture of the history being taught at St John's.
2. Historical evidence helps children to recognise that historical evidence is questionable and can be interpreted in different ways by different people.
3. Cause and consequence helps children to appreciate the reasons behind significant historical events and their implications for the future.
4. Historical significance helps children to understand that the importance of some people and events throughout history may only be fully appreciated at a later date and that famous does not necessarily equate to significant.

Implementation

We believe using Drama for Learning, an inquiry approach to learning developed here in Newcastle in which our staff are trained, is the best way to achieve this because it provides relevant contexts in which the children can learn and recognises that powerful learning is achieved when children are driven to think and feel about significant historical events in open situations.

Our humanities curriculum is rotated on a half termly basis where history and geography are given equal weighting as we recognise it is impossible to teach history without its geographical context. 'Use and apply' sessions are employed to give our children the opportunity to apply their learned techniques and skills to a real-life context.

Our developed curriculum and method of delivery enables children to learn and progress in history in four ways.

1. Through refining our core knowledge, children will be able to know and remember more of their taught history through understanding more.
2. Children are able to work on the tools and techniques of learning about history and then develop the skills to apply those to different historical situations.
3. Through the four concepts listed above, children are able to build on their understanding across their time at St John's.
4. Through the acquisition of appropriate language and vocabulary.