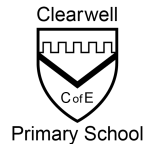


History

Curriculum Intent



History is interwoven into our everyday life as we think about our own pasts, presents and futures. It is important to learn about the past, ask questions about how times have changed and compare different world events to understand how society has been shaped to become the one we live in now.

Here at Clearwell C of E Primary School, we aim to deliver a high-quality history education which makes full use of the resources within the immediate and wider local area, enabling children to develop a deep understanding of the history in their locality. Topics are informed by the National Curriculum 2014 and are taught on a 3-year rolling programme in the infant class and on a 4 year rolling programme in Key stage 2.

In line with the National Curriculum we aim to ensure that all pupils:

- Gain a coherent knowledge of understanding Britain's past and that of the wider world which helps to stimulate pupils' curiosity to know more about the past.
- Are encouraged to ask perceptive questions, think critically, weigh evidence, sift arguments, and
- Develop perspective and judgement.
- Begin to understand the complexity of people's lives, the process of change, the diversity of societies and relationships between different groups as well as their own identity and the challenges of their time.

Today we are being **historians**.

We are learning **history**.

Good historians will...

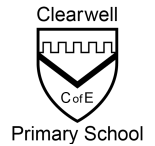
- Understand the chronology of Britain and the wider world
- Ask and answer historical questions
- Use sources of evidence to learn about the past
- Explore key aspects of civilisations
 - Social (how people lived)
 - Political (power holders, empire and invasion)
 - Economic (trade and industry)
 - Cultural (belief systems and key achievements)

How do we teach History at Clearwell C of E Primary School?

The teaching in Reception follows the 'Development matters in the EYFS' guidance which aims for all children to have an 'understanding of the world; people and communities, the world and technology' by the end of the reception year. Areas of provision are enhanced to ensure vocabulary is taught and that children develop an understanding of the difference between past and present.

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In Key stage 1 and 2 our teaching focuses on developing the key skills of chronological understanding and knowledge of events in the past. They children will also learn the skills of historical enquiry, communication and organisation. As historians, children will learn lessons from history to influence the decisions they make in their future lives

Whole School Intent

The curriculum intends to promote Christian values

Clearwell CofE Primary school is a church school that prides itself on teaching Christian values throughout its curriculum and the wider life of school. As a church school, the children learn about Christian values, as well as those of other faiths, in order to prepare them as caring and considerate members of society. All values are nurtured and highlighted throughout all teaching and are fundamental to the children's attitudes towards learning. They help support a growth mindset and also help build relationships and attitudes beyond the curriculum. Periods of reflection and worship support learning attitudes and the ability for children to understand how Christian Values can aid learning new skills; acquiring new knowledge and supporting others to do the same.

When learning about different periods and civilisations in history, it is inevitable that pupils will find out about events and beliefs that vary from Christian theology and practice, for example, the gods and goddesses worshipped by ancient civilisations. There will also be times when moral, ethical and philosophical concepts will be challenged in these lessons – for example, when learning about the events leading up to World War II or Ancient Egyptian beliefs about the afterlife. Pupils are expected to demonstrate respect during these lessons. They will be supported in the event that such subject matter causes distress.

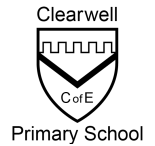
The curriculum intends to be experience based:

It is recognised that children start school with a wide range of different experiences. The curriculum is planned to extend and enhance these experiences. An in-depth knowledge of each child allows staff to plan individual programmes and experiences to fill in any gaps in developmental progress. Staff ensure children's learning, where possible, is based on hands-on experiences; meeting visitors who can inspire children and visiting places of interest which ensure children have first-hand experiences.

There will be occasions when children visit museums or other locations which support learning in this area, for example, The Dean Heritage Centre Victorian school room or miner's cottage. Equally, handling artefacts on site will help to bring history to life and enhance understanding. Arranging opportunities for pupils to speak to people who are themselves sources of evidence is encouraged, for example, former pupils of the school or senior members of the community who may recall what it was like to be a child during World War II for example.

History

Curriculum Intent



The curriculum intends to use technology to enhance learning:

We recognise that in a society that relies so heavily on technology, we have a duty to prepare our pupils to operate effectively and safely in the modern world. We aim to provide opportunities for pupils to learn about how technology can be used to enhance learning and awaken interest in the possibilities that exist now and those that might follow in the future.

Technology is used to promote learning and the acquisition of skills and knowledge in all subjects. It enables pupils to carry out online research and also to visit museums virtually. Pupils are able to access first-hand recounts of more recent events by watching interviews with people who were there at the time, such as Battle of Britain pilots, or by watching newsreel footage of events in the twentieth century.

The curriculum intends to raise self-esteem and self-confidence:

Throughout all aspects of school life staff promote a can-do attitude and celebrate the successes, resilience, perseverance and progress of all children. This is particularly apparent at Clearwell as, due to our small numbers, all children are given the opportunity to develop their self-esteem and self-confidence. Clearwell recognises the opportunities that small school teaching can provide and promotes mixed age learning to support and challenge all pupils. The curriculum is structured to provide the children with the opportunity to experience their full entitlement in a supportive environment that celebrates perseverance and resilience to challenge. We recognise that some children may need support to maintain their well-being and we will seek to do this in a nurturing and positive learning environment.

History is a subject which fascinates and enthrals some children in particular. For them, becoming an expert on subjects, such as the Ancient Egyptians, is an opportunity to shine, thereby developing enhanced self-esteem and confidence. There may be pupils who have a particular link to one of the topics – an ancestor or family member who was a pilot in the war or an evacuated child for example; this gives that pupil an opportunity to celebrate their heritage.

The curriculum focusses on the core skills of Reading, Writing and Maths:

Staff recognise that for children to succeed beyond the classroom the skills of reading, writing and maths are crucial. Children start school with a range of levels of understanding and development for their age group. The school recognises some children will need extra support in order to close these gaps. Staff work closely with parents and carers to help children succeed.

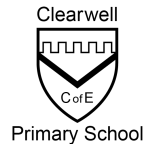
In order to find out about the past, pupils need to be able to use their reading and writing skills to access information online or in other texts and to communicate what they have learned. An understanding of number and sequencing is needed to develop a sense of chronology.

The curriculum has a clearly mapped out progression of skills and knowledge:

Staff recognise that in order for children to learn effectively, it is important that the taught curriculum is carefully mapped out. The rolling programme of three and four-year curriculum cycles allow children to acquire and develop these skills, revisiting them and reinforcing them continually. This ensures that long term acquisition of skills and knowledge is embedded. Each curriculum area has been considered to

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ensure that the benefits of mixed age teaching can be maximised whilst still providing adequate challenge and progression within each key phase of primary education.

The school uses the Grammarsaurus scheme for history which has a progression of skills embedded in it. This is adapted to reflect the mixed age organisation of our school.

The curriculum has a focus on developing Speech and Language:

Some children enter school with Speech and Language development below the expected level. As such, staff tailor the curriculum to prioritise this aspect and utilise opportunities both within formal and informal learning. From the first weeks at Clearwell, children are encouraged to develop their speaking and listening skills through performance, stories, singing, rhymes and role play. The unique set up of multi-age classes means that the children have role models to imitate and learn from. The development of oracy skills is key in developing the ability to communicate in writing.

There will also be times when moral, ethical and philosophical concepts will be challenged in these lessons – for example, when learning about the events leading up to World War II. These matters offer opportunities for debate and discussion. In developing an understanding of the motivation of people from the past, hot-seating is often used during lessons to engage pupils.