

## East Worlington Primary School

### History Curriculum Statement, Knowledge and Skills Progression

**Subject Vision:** *“A people without the knowledge of their past history, origin and culture is like a tree without roots.” – Marcus Garvey*

Our history curriculum aims to inspire our pupils’ curiosity to know more about the past and how it has shaped the present – and will shape the future. History helps pupils to understand the process of change, the diversity of societies as well as their own identity and the challenges of their time. We hope that their knowledge and historical skills will help them make more informed life choices and aspire to be open-minded citizens, making a valuable contribution to society: asking perceptive questions, thinking critically, weighing evidence and developing perspective. Our local area in the Exe Valley has a rich and diverse history and we believe this should drive our curriculum, along with familial stories so that children develop their understanding of the community in which they are rooted and the diversity of their own country, the UK and the wider world.

**Statement of Intent:**

We seek to create a life-long love of the subject, through teaching our children about their own stories, learning from visitors, trips, and through the use of historical artefacts and interpretations of history. This enables our children to be historians – piecing together evidence – and we see historical enquiry as the vehicle for engaging and enabling them – allowing children opportunities to apply their knowledge and use disciplinary skills. As they continue on their journey of History, we aim to foster a deep understanding of the subject that develops alongside their skills. Our curriculum is designed to provide our children with the subject specific language they need to describe, question and discuss historical events and their impact on the world. Our pupils are encouraged to recognise that they have a voice and to use it confidently to debate topics that they feel passionate about. We aim to produce well- rounded individuals by providing our children with opportunities to expand their cultural capital and experiences of the world.

From EYFS children explore history within living memory of both their parents and themselves. As children move through the school, they build upon personal experience to develop a knowledge of history that is relevant to themselves and their school context, by looking at the history of Childhood and Victorian Schools. Through KS2 children begin to widen their knowledge and investigative skills to encompass the earliest humans and ancient civilizations. The timeline that the children study also encompasses significant historical periods and events for the United Kingdom and the commonwealth.

This means following a skills-progression curriculum model with knowledge underpinning the application of skills. The 2002 Education Act requires schools to provide a ‘balanced and broadly based curriculum’ which promotes the spiritual, moral, cultural, mental and physical development of children at our schools and prepares them for the opportunities, responsibilities and experiences of later life. The school curriculum is broader than the National Curriculum and our intention is to give children a richer and deeper experience that is not limited by the National Curriculum.

**Statement of Implementation:**

The curriculum will be based on the National Curriculum Programmes of Study but will be enriched by class trips, residentials and planned enquiries. The curriculum will build on Early Years practice. Good questions are the engine of historical enquiry. Meaningful links across the Primary curriculum will support children in developing their understanding of concepts. Timelines are used to build connections with other curriculum subjects and are regularly referred to as part of learning. A cycle of lessons will be carefully planned for progression and depth.

At East Worlington School, History led topics are taught across a whole term making strong cross curricular links. In topics where History is not the driving subject, historical skills and knowledge will be regularly revisited by interleaving within the focus area. The school will maximise opportunities to use its own location and artefacts. Planning involves teachers creating engaging lessons that will be assessed for progress in History. Visits, visitors and residential visits provides rich resources for children to develop a sense of time and place and cultural awareness. Children will take part, yearly, in a purposeful enquiry that involves raising questions and investigating an aspect of History. Through their learning they will develop a sense of chronology, the ability to discuss and question cause and consequence, an understanding of historical interpretation and be able to use historical enquiry skills. They will be able to communicate their findings in a variety of ways.

**Statement of Impact:**

Our History curriculum is high quality, well thought out and is planned to demonstrate progression across a phase of learning. As they progress through the primary phase, they will gain independence when finding out about the past from a range of sources and they will be able to organise and communicate their findings demonstrating a clear understanding of historical concepts. They will be able to articulate their understanding with a growing confidence in the use of subject specific words.

The impact of this will be seen when talking to the children about their interest and attitude towards historical learning and in their confidence to engage, discuss, reason, question and debate. This will demonstrate children's ability to apply generalisations to understand the world around them. Evidence of learning will be in their books, classroom displays and heard in discussions. Teachers will use formative assessment methods to identify children's understanding. The children will be given opportunities to present their learning in a variety of ways – such as presentations, role play, open days and assemblies. By Year 6 substantive knowledge will be in place in order for children to meet with the aims of the National Curriculum.

**This Curriculum Statement and Skills Progression should be read in conjunction with the school's Curriculum Vision and Pedagogy and the Project Plans for each class.**