



Providing the keys to success for every child

Whole School Policy on:

HISTORY POLICY

Version 2

Head Teacher: Mr M Cowell

Kent County Council

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History Coordinator: **Mrs J Large.**

Reviewed and revised: **September 2013.**

1 Aims

History is an interpretation of the past. At Palm Bay Primary School we aim to stimulate children's interest and understanding about the life of people who lived in the past and ways in which it differs from the present. Learning about the past helps children to make sense of the world in which they live and to develop analytical thinking. We teach children to understand how events in the past have influenced our lives today.

We aim to offer opportunities to:

- foster in children an interest in the past and develop their sense of chronology
- develop children's sense of identity through learning about the development of Britain, Europe and the world
- develop in children the skills of enquiry, interpretation, investigation and evaluation of past events
- help children to understand the present world, and in particular their own world, in light of the past and the role history has played in determining the life they live, and the future
- help children to understand how the past was different from the present and that people in other times and places may have had different values and attitudes from ours
- provide a wealth of opportunities to address the personal, cultural, moral and spiritual development of pupils

2 The Teaching and Learning of History

At Palm Bay Primary School the teaching of History focuses on enabling children to think as historians. We place an emphasis on examining historical artefacts and primary resources. Wherever possible, children go on school trips to enrich their learning, e.g. Dover Castle. We encourage visitors to come to school and talk about experiences of events in the past, e.g. Mr O'Sullivan, who brings the year 6 topic of World War II to life, through drama and artefacts. We encourage parents to be involved in their children's learning and achievements, e.g. class museum. We recognise and value the importance of stories in history teaching and we regard this as an important way of stimulating interest in the past. We focus on helping children understand that historical events can be interpreted in different ways and that they should always ask searching questions about information they are given. We will use a wide range of questioning techniques, including open ended questions, to enable pupils to use higher order thinking skills, as well as drama and role play activities. Teachers are encouraged to make cross curricular links to other subjects in their



teaching of history to provide a broad and balanced curriculum that makes learning fun and enjoyable.

The children will cover the content of the National Curriculum and in so doing they will develop the skills, knowledge and conceptual understanding laid down in the National Curriculum. These are:

1. Chronological understanding
2. Knowledge and understanding of events, people and changes in the past
3. Historical interpretation
4. Historical enquiry
5. Organisation and communication

3 Curriculum Organisation

In Reception, children will learn about their world through the 'Knowledge and Understanding of the World' area of development. In Reception History is taught as an integral part of the topic work covered during the year.

In Key Stage 1 History is taught in blocks on a two year rolling cycle.

In Key Stage 2 each class covers topics over the course of the year.

Children build on their knowledge and historical skills as they progress through the school.

4 Cross Curricular Links

History pervades every aspect of our lives and cultures. History can make a major contribution to cross-curricular elements in the development of key concepts, skills, values and attitudes. The school develops and uses cross-curricular links with history with the purpose of:

- a) placing the history programme in a more meaningful context; and
- b) enhancing the pupils' understanding and ability in a number of key areas of the wider curriculum.

5 ICT

Children will be given opportunities to use ICT including the use of web based resources, CD ROMS, internet search engines and videos/DVDs to enhance their research skills and the development of knowledge and understanding of History.

In common with most other subjects, ICT will be used if it is felt to be the most effective strategy that enhances the delivery of the curriculum.



6 Equal Opportunities

At Palm Bay Primary School, we value every child, and all pupils will have equal access to the History curriculum. We seek to provide a rich and relevant curriculum for all pupils, regardless of gender, race, ethnicity, religion, disability, etc.

The curriculum taught will prepare our children to become full and active citizens in an ethnically and culturally diverse society. The History curriculum seeks to challenge stereotypes based on gender, race or ability and provides equal access and educational outcomes for all pupils. Children should be taught about the cultural and ethnic diversity of past societies and the experiences of men and women. Historical studies should try to reflect this in content and in resources used. Children might also consider why some evidence is limited or unavailable, e.g. there is very little reference to black troops in World War II.

7 Assessment and Record Keeping

We assess children's work in History by making informal judgements as we observe, question and listen to them during each History lesson. All staff at Palm Bay Primary School have a positive approach to the children's work and this is reflected when the teacher marks the work and comments as necessary. At the end of a unit of work, the teacher makes a summary judgement about the work of each pupil and records a National Curriculum level on an assessment sheet.

8 Resources

Resources for both Key Stages are stored centrally in cupboard 2, with the art and geography resources. The budget is managed by Key Stage Co-ordinators.

9 Responsibilities of the Coordinator

These include:

- Assisting colleagues with planning
- Offering advice when planning a visit
- Monitoring the implementation of the policy
- Arranging for the review of the policy and update as necessary
- Attending courses on the subject and promote attendance of other members of staff as appropriate
- Having an overview of History teaching across the whole school



10 Responsibility of the Class Teacher

- Plan and deliver History lessons, making cross curricular links where possible.
- Provide a classroom which includes displays and resources related to the History topic.
- Plan and organise trips and visits where possible.
- At the end of each unit taught complete assessment record sheet.

11 Review of History Policy

This policy will be reviewed bi-annually (odd years) during Term 1, or additionally as required.

The next review of this policy is due: Autumn Term 1, 2015.