History Curriculum

Intent

At Astbury school, our History Curriculum is designed to build children who are inquisitive, observant and have a passion for finding out about the past and how it influences our lives today. Children build their cultural capital, having a wide general knowledge that they retain over time. Our curriculum is designed specifically to equip our pupils with a deep knowledge of their locality and the community in which they live. Using a sequential approach to learning, children build on previous historical knowledge and skills. Recognising the importance of enriching our pupil’s vocabulary, pupils are introduced to topic specific language and given opportunities to use and recap it regularly so they can express their thoughts and ideas confidently and coherently. Our teaching equips pupils with knowledge about the past and its impact on the world around them and prepares them for the next stage of their education. Through a variety of teaching styles, children find out about significant historical figures and the impact of invaders and settlers. From EYFS, the children build and develop an understanding of chronology and significant historic events.

Through the teaching of history, we aim:

* to acquire an accurate and increasingly detailed knowledge of local and British history.
* to inspire pupils’ curiosity and interest in the past so they ask historically valid questions that stretch their knowledge and understanding
* to provide an awareness of both their own heritage, and that of others.
* to encourage an appreciation of how the past influences the present.
* to help children to use and apply a wide vocabulary of everyday historical terms
* to be able to recognise what evidence is and evaluate its quality.
* to develop knowledge of chronology within which they can organise their understanding of the past.
* to make links with and apply prior learning.

Implementation

The history curriculum at Astbury is carefully planned and sequenced so that new knowledge and skills build on what has been taught before. It is a spiral curriculum, which supports the delivery in a mixed age class but also encourages the retrieval of prior knowledge and skills to embed these. The history curriculum reflects the children’s locality and wider area. It is broad and, where appropriate, purposefully linked to other subjects. Disadvantaged pupils or pupils with SEND are supported to access the same broad and challenging curriculum

Teachers enable pupils to understand, remember and retrieve key concepts in history, presenting information clearly and promoting appropriate discussion. Using assessment for learning, teachers check pupils’ understanding effectively, identifying and correcting misunderstandings. Teachers also use summative assessment effectively to check pupils’ retention of taught historical knowledge in order to inform their teaching and further planning.

Impact

Our history curriculum is carefully planned to demonstrate progression, ensuring that pupils are prepared for the next stage of their education. As children progress throughout the school, they build up a broader historical vocabulary, developing a deeper understanding and appreciation of their local history and its place within the wider context. The children are confident to talk about their learning and express their enjoyment of the lessons. Many children take their learning further by independently researching at home.