



## **Southam St James CofE Academy**

### **History Curriculum Intent**

#### **Intent**

'Let your light shine' Our vision for our community is for everyone, children, and adults, to flourish and shine brightly as the best and fullest version of their unique selves. We aim high and do not let circumstances limit us. 'I will shine. We will shine as, together, we grow in wisdom, learning from the teachings of Jesus, to serve our community.' Our history curriculum has been designed to allow children to let their light shine as historians.

History is fundamental to our curriculum vision for Southam St James. If children are to become reflective, critical thinkers, equipped to make their own mark as independent citizens of the world, they need to appreciate what has come before them. Historical enquiry offers a particularly exciting and illuminating window on the world that demands precise and coherent communication of ideas: effective historians imagine and construct other experiences, understanding and appreciating difference; they are creative, resourceful and analytical in identifying and evaluating evidence that is often incomplete; they apply their knowledge and understanding to build informed arguments that can be supported by witness testimony in all its rich and varied forms. History offers a unique context in which to identify connections in human existence: it rewards curiosity and resilience with discovery and understanding that promotes personal growth, confidence, and empowerment:

Our vision is that all children will develop:

- a lively curiosity about the past, exploring key people, events and innovations, as well as an understanding of how 'ordinary lives' have changed;
- an appreciation of the skills of historical enquiry (what it means to be 'an historian'), identifying, interrogating, interpreting and evaluating historical evidence from diverse sources;
- an understanding of how viewing the past from different perspectives creates multiple 'histories', how these may conflict, and how they might be reconciled;
- a secure understanding of chronology that will enable them to sequence key periods and events in British History and begin to place these into a wider world context;
- the confidence to construct historical arguments, interpreting evidence and accounts of the past independently and making connections between them.

#### **Implementation**

Our aim is that children at Southam St James will learn the skills and habits of historians and will be enthused by being able to apply these with growing independence in different contexts. They will have opportunities to work directly with historical evidence in various forms (including oral and written testimony, historical artefacts, and primary texts, as well as via secondary sources). They will also explore different fields of History (e.g. Economic, Social, Political and Cultural History) through a variety of carefully sequenced local, national and global topics covering Ancient, Medieval, Early Modern, Modern and Contemporary History. Children will develop a secure understanding of chronology so that they are equipped to make connections between different time periods and historical debates. They will learn to generate their own questions for historical enquiry and explore how questions about the past may evolve as historical evidence is analysed.

Children will be offered opportunities to develop their understanding via visits to museums and exhibitions or by external agencies coming into school. They will also learn how to curate and present their own findings to inform others, developing skills in historical argument, but also choosing and using a range of communication strategies as appropriate to present their ideas coherently.

Effective teaching of History not only provides children with access to a vibrant academic discipline that is intellectually stimulating and enjoyable, it also promotes curiosity, observation, resilience, and effective communication. In addition, historical understanding contributes significantly to the 'cultural capital' children need to become confident, reflective citizens. By the time children leave Southam St James, our aim is that they have a secure knowledge of some core events and themes in British and world History which they can locate chronologically with confidence. We also want to instill in them an appreciation of the history of their local community and a pride in their locality. By studying, for example, Coventry's contribution to British industrialisation, Coventry's experience during World War II and its role in promoting international reconciliation after 1945, we aim to cultivate in our children an awareness of their home city as interesting, forward-thinking, and inspiring. We believe that this validation of our local community will enhance children's perception of themselves as independent, reflective, and critical agents with exciting futures ahead of them.

History in Early Years is covered through the understanding the World area of learning- (see Early Years long term plan for coverage).

Children with SEND have access to a broad and balanced curriculum and scaffolding is used to support children in their learning in line with the EEF recommendations. Where required pre teach is also used to expose children to content prior to it being taught this may include vocabulary teaching in order that those pupils can access the lesson.

Enrichment opportunities are offered in the form of visits, visitors. They provide opportunities for children to broaden their experiences and deepen their learning. They spark interest and are a motivating factor for children.

## Impact

Following a unit of work a multiple - choice quiz is undertaken so that children are able to demonstrate their ability to know more and remember more.

Monitoring is carried out with staff as a collaborative and developmental approach. A variety of methods are used to quality assure the quality of provision in history and information is triangulated to provide a well-developed evaluation.

- Learning walks/pop ins.
- Pupil voice
- Book looks
- Pupil progress meetings.
- Learning environment checks.
- The school's assessment system Insight is used to track progress in key learning