



History Intent and Progression



At the Academy at St James we believe that history is the foundation of our society, what we learn from the past informs our decision on the future. Mistakes can be corrected, successes can be replicated and to understand this is key to a caring, inclusive and progressive United Kingdom. This is why History is the BEST, yes the BEST subject because it allows us to reflect, summarise and change the direction we are heading.

At the Academy at St James, we put the power into the children's hands and allow them to be engrossed in all aspects of this fantastic subject. These key aspect are:

1. Law and Order
2. Significant People
3. Settlement and Trade
4. Life of Society

These key aspects will be taught within each year group, providing a different angle to their historical learning. In addition, we also have a huge focus on Chronology and the notion that children understand the concept of time. Understanding that the Vikings were not here yesterday is key to grasping the idea of historical evolution over a long period. To improve this, we have tried our best to plan our History themes in relation to time, therefore the children are learning about historical events in chronological order. As they progress through school, the content and expectations will increase, challenging their opinion, their understanding of historical information and reflecting on their lives and the society they live in today.

Cultural Capital

Underpinning all this, is their learning experience because bringing History alive is a huge emphasis on our part. Whether that be family history, local history or global history, we will provide travel opportunities so that the children can experience how life has changed over thousands of years. These trips include such things as visits to the transport museum in Bradford, Salts Mill, Eden Park and Haworth as well as researching about our local heroes. That first-hand experience will increase their love and engagement in this pivotal subject.

Christian Values and Pupil Progression Enhancements

Our History curriculum connects the past to the present, learning about how values and society has changed over thousands of years. It gives them a great opportunity to contrast their own life with lives of the past which builds an understanding of the world around them. Though group discussion, open ended questions and oracy, we will encourage the children to question the events of the past and decide how we can learn from them to move forward into the future. Memory and retrieval is another key indicator of understanding and we will assess this through regular memory quizzes and activities aimed at aiding recollecting not just what they learn in History that term but what they have learnt in previous terms and in previous years.

The specific skills and knowledge taught in History are detailed in our Skill Progression and Knowledge organiser documents. If you wish to see these, please ask your child's class teacher.