

**St Simon’s History Statement of Intent**

**Intent***Why do we teach this? Why do we teach it the way we do?*

History is valued highly at St Simon’s and as a school we teach our children the importance of understanding global History and its impact on our lives, but also the importance of local History. We celebrate the rich history within the context of the local area and the important part it played within significant periods in time. The history curriculum at St Simon’s strives to make full use of resources within the immediate and wider local area enabling children to develop a deep understanding of the rich history of their locality.  
All topics taught at St Simon’s are informed by the national curriculum as well as the context of the local area. The history curriculum at William Patten is carefully planned and structured to ensure that current learning is linked to previous learning to develop a solid chronological understanding in our children.

**Implementation***What do we teach? What does this look like?*

Our curriculum is shaped by our school vision, to STRIVE to be the best we can be for the Glory of God.

The aims of teaching History at St Simon’s Catholic Primary School are to:

* Arouse an interest in the past and past events;
* Help students develop a chronological framework for their knowledge of significant events and people.
* Enable children to know about significant events in British History and to appreciate how things have changed over time;
* Develop a sense of chronological understanding;
* Help provide children with an understanding of cultural roots and shared inheritances;
* Help children gain a greater understanding of history in the wider world;
* Distinguish between fact and opinion and develop their own points of view;
* Understand how Britain is part of a wider European culture and to study some aspects of European History;
* Enrich other areas of the curriculum;
* Have some knowledge and understanding of historical development in the wider world;
* Develop in children the skills of enquiry, investigation, analysis, evaluation and presentation

Our teaching and learning:

At St Simon’s History is taught in blocks throughout the year, so that children achieve depth in their learning. Through the use of knowledge organisers, teachers have identified the key knowledge and skills of each topic and consideration has been given to ensure progression across topics throughout each year group across the school.

By the end of year 6, children will have a chronological understanding of British history from the Stone Age to the present day. They will be able to draw comparisons and make connections between different time periods and their own lives. Interlinked with this are studies of world history, such as the ancient civilisations of Egypt, Greece, Rome and the Mayans. Teachers search for cross curricular outcomes in history and plan for them where appropriate.

Planning is informed by and aligned with the national curriculum. Teachers make use of reliable resources from agencies such as the History Association, of which the school is a member to support their planning. Consideration is given to how all children learn differently and History is taught in a variety of ways to make the key knowledge accessible to all pupils.

Outcomes of work are regularly monitored to ensure that they reflect a sound understanding of the key identified knowledge.

The Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) aims for all children in reception to have an understanding of their own personal history (All about me) before moving on to looking at changes through time in the wider world in themes such a ‘Transport’.

**Impact***What will this look like?*

By the time children leave St Simon’s Catholic Primary School they will:

Have a coherent knowledge and understanding of Britain’s past and that of the wider world. Children will have a curiosity to know and learn more about the past. Our children will be equipped to ask perceptive questions, think critically, weigh evidence, sift arguments, and develop perspective and judgement. On leaving St Simon’s children will understand the complexity of people’s lives, the process of change, the diversity of societies and relationships between different groups, as well as their own identity and the challenges of their time.

This will be evident through pieces of work produced by children at the end of each topic. Children will be given the opportunity to communicate the knowledge and skills they have learnt during each topic in a variety of way (e.g. written work, presentations, discussions, drama).

The integral nature of the History curriculum at St Simon’s creates rich opportunities for children to access fundamental skills including:

* A respect for **spiritual**, cultural and historic diversity.
* Being **trusted** when interacting and working with others.
* Increased **resilience** to continue trying and improving through a process of self-reflection.
* An **inquisitive** nature to explore new things and take risks.
* Being **valued** both individually and as part of a team.
* A sense of **exceptional** achievement.