

## **History at George Street Primary School.**

### **Intent:**

At George Street we want our children to become educated and respectful citizens who possess solid knowledge and understanding of Britain's and the world's past. We want our children to understand that history is about human past, and that it has a strong link to the present and the future. Since the past events shaped the world we know it now, we want our children to understand that they are the generation who create history at this moment.

Our aim is to spark children's curiosity, encourage them to ask questions and understand why events of the past have had place and what led to the outcomes of the events. We strive to give children an opportunity to think critically when they study the historical evidence and have open discussions about human past and how the process of change over time has shaped societies, their culture and relationships between nations.

We see the importance of children's engagement in practical study of history and we want to enable them to experience the past through meeting people, extra curriculum visits and the use of drama to bring learning about history alive. Our aim is to give all our pupils the skills of looking for and analysing the historical evidence, studying both primary and secondary sources and taking an active part in reconstructing events of the past. Through all of these means we enable our children to understand that historical narrative can be changed depending on the source of the information. We aim to use a variety of opportunities where children can learn historical chronology and understanding of periods, as well as develop new rich historical vocabulary through reading high quality literature based on historical narrative.

We want our children to learn about local history in context of our national past, through studying lives of important people and the impact of significant events on the development of Hemel Hempstead.

We want our children to be proud of and celebrate the great British past and learn how to build a better future by learning from and avoiding repeating mistakes from the past.

### **Implementation:**

At George Street, history plays an important role in learning and developing our children's understanding of the past and present of the UK and wider world. To ensure high standards of teaching and learning of history, we implement a curriculum that is progressive throughout the whole school. Even though history has close cross-curriculum link to other foundation subject such as Geography and RE, it is taught as a separate discipline, focusing on knowledge and skills as stated in the National Curriculum. History is planned as termly topic blocks and is based on progression of skills and knowledge across each of the Key Stages.

At George Street our children are active learners, so when teaching history we ensure our pupils develop historical skills and work as historians having real-life experience where possible. When planning history lessons, teachers apply a variety of teaching approaches and resources that are based on the teacher's judgement and children interest to ensure children's learning is engaging, broad and balanced.

We realise children interest in history by providing opportunities to learn through books and real life artefacts. We encourage our pupils to develop analytical and critical skills through investigations, analysing sources, open discussions and extended writing on historical themes. These activities will give our children the chance to broaden and actively use historical vocabulary in their learning as well as further life.

At George Street we enrich children's history learning using experiences both inside and outside the classroom to enrich children experience of the past. Carefully planned enrichment opportunity, such as visitors, workshops and school trips, are an important part of children learning journey. Close proximity of Old Town, presence of the oldest British Paper Mill and Grand Union Canal gives an endless opportunity for children to investigate and experience real evidence of the past of their own town. Yearly organised History

week is a valuable time for children and parents, when we offer a chance for members of families to engage with school and join in with their children's learning.

**Impact:**

By creating engaging, broad and balanced teaching and learning opportunity we aim for our children to become well educated, respectful citizens who know and understand how events of the past have changed and influenced the way we live now. We want our children to be fascinated by and proud of great British history and understand the link between nations.

We aim to create a high quality history curriculum that is well planned and demonstrates progression of knowledge and skills across the school. The goal of our teaching and learning of history is to enable our children to become confident and passionate learners of the past and give them solid grounds for further learning of history in secondary school.

We measure the impact of our curriculum through the following methods:

- Assessing children's knowledge of topic before and after the unit is taught.
- Using a broad range of vocabulary and historical terminology linked to the specific topic.
- Formative assessment of pupil discussions about their learning.
- Images and videos of the children's practical learning.
- Pupils voice about their learning.
- Marking of written work in books.