

# Coalway Community Infant School

## History Curriculum Intent



### Whole school Vision

- We will nurture our children to become happy, independent, confident and valued individuals who will be able to make healthy, happy relationships with a range of people. They will develop positive personal traits, values and attitudes, which will prepare them for later life experiences.

- We will ensure all of our children experience a broad, rich curriculum, tailored to the unique needs of each individual child.

Our children will have developed knowledge, understanding and skills across the curriculum by the time they leave us, ensuring that they have the skills necessary for their future success.

We will focus in particular on supporting the development of our children's early communication and language skills, early reading and early mathematics skills, to accelerate their progress and prepare them for the next stage of their education.

- We will enable our children to believe in themselves and be aspirational, to achieve the highest possible standards and be successful.
- We will help our children develop a love of and enthusiasm for learning, where they are proud of themselves and celebrate everyone's achievement.
- We will care for and support everyone within our 'Coalway family', establish good communication and relationships, and work together to provide the best outcomes for all of our children. We will continue to develop the children's understanding of their belonging within the community and the wider world and strive to develop strong successful partnerships beyond the school.
- We will ensure that all children try new things, perform in a show, learn outdoors, including within our beautiful Forest of Dean setting, have experiences within the local community, visit new places and have the opportunity to learn to swim.

Our children will leave Coalway Infants with positive, happy memories, having had a wealth of experiences and a range of academic, creative, sporting, cultural and spiritual opportunities.

### History Vision

Coalway Community Infant School aims to provide an ambitious and balanced history education, through the Early Learning Goals and the national curriculum, which will enable children to develop a coherent knowledge and understanding of the history of the British Isle and the wider world.

Our History threads include now and then, transport and homes. Within these themes our local history underpin our curriculum (Gloucester, Forest of Dean, Bristol and Chepstow) to ensure that our children have a good foundation and understanding of the past.

The children's historical journey, throughout their time at Coalway Infants, will be enjoyable and thought provoking, ensuring that they develop a genuine love for history. Through an engaging curriculum, we aim to inspire children's curiosities about the past.

Our curriculum is enriched by our 'golden threads' to ensure the children have real life experiences to bring history alive (visitors, workshops and trips). Good teaching will equip children with historical skills and knowledge, enabling them to ask questions, think critically, interpret historical events and understand the chronology of our history in Britain and of the wider world.

## How is History taught?

### History in the Early Years

EYFS past and present-

Our history curriculum is planned from EYFS profile using the Early Learning Goals from the past and present. It is planned to link in with our themes and to build foundation knowledge which will be built upon in KS1. The children will experience a range of different concepts from the past through stories and using artefacts to bring learning to life. Experiences and trips are planned into our curriculum to ensure our children have first-hand experiences of our history.

History enhancements will be planned through child-led exploration and adult directed group work. Children will be given opportunities to remember and talk about their own experiences and significant events in their lives. They will learn about events both past and present, in their own lives and those of others they know. The vocabulary of yesterday, today and tomorrow will be used. Children will look at pictures or stories of periods of time within our history to discover the meaning of old and new in relation to their own lives. Throughout every term the children will be exposed to a range of historical stories to support their understanding of the past. The children will explore chronology through their life journey, they will consider the changes that they have experienced since they were a baby. The children will use photos of themselves to understand the narrative of their past which can then be built upon in KS1.

### Our KS1 History

Our History threads of study come from the National Curriculum and are planned throughout the academic year, linked to the History unit being taught each term. Long term planning ensures complete coverage and progression in skills and knowledge linked to the National Curriculum objectives.

At Coalway Infant school, we encourage the children to be inquisitive through our ambitious History curriculum. Our curriculum is broad and balanced and fosters a healthy curiosity throughout our History units. Throughout the units of study the children will acquire and develop the key 'sticky' knowledge that has been identified within each unit and across each year group, as well as the application of historical skills. We ensure that the knowledge and skills are built-on and developed throughout the children's time at the school.

Our History Vision -

- To think critically and develop their own opinions and judgement on what they learn about the past.
- Discover connections between the History they learn and the wider community today.
- To talk about past and present events in their lives and the lives of others.
- To see the impact of change by discussing similarities and differences in relation to places, objects, materials and living things.
- To be able to place events in a chronological order.
- In the EYFS we seek to help children develop a sense of time, building the language and vocabulary to understand and make sense of their own history.

### Golden threads

- We aim to enrich our history curriculum through a range of real experiences for the children in our school.
- Whole class teaching ensures that all children feel valued and that they can access the work. When the child needs support to access the learning, teachers provide a scaffold so that the child can still engage in the lesson in a more appropriate way. A can-do attitude is promoted throughout all areas of learning.
- Children are given the opportunity to complete extended pieces of writing in history throughout the

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school, to a standard that they would also produce in English lessons. Key spellings are identified, and children are encouraged to use correct terminology when writing. Through the teaching of chronology, children are asked to sequence events by date, using their maths skills to help them.

- Sources, books and questions encourage children to access a range of key vocabulary effectively and then use this in their writing. Opportunities for paired talk, class discussion and feedback are built into lessons on a regular basis, giving children the chance to use new vocabulary and share ideas and questions. Children are expected to answer questions in full sentences both orally and when writing.
- By enthusing and engaging the children throughout the history curriculum, we show them how things have changed and how people have had an impact on these changes. They will then be appreciative of the changes that have happened and realise that they too can change the world. A can do attitude is adopted in all sessions and the belief is that everyone can achieve and succeed in history. Children are encouraged to persevere and learn from their mistakes and misconceptions.
- Trips and opportunities to visit key local historical places not only enable first-hand experiences of historical places, but importantly models to children how to behave and conduct themselves in an appropriate way, both in public places and when handling important historical artefacts.
- A range of diverse significant people are planned through our curriculum to give children different figures to aspire to.

### Why history is taught in this way?

#### EYFS

In the Early Years, much of the historical learning is linked to the children's own knowledge and memory of the world as well as their experiences learning about the past in other ways, such as through books and videos. We aim to build on the knowledge and understanding that children come to school with, which is often vastly different for each child, in order to prepare them for future learning. Many of their learning experiences link to their own lives or books and stories, so that learning can be hooked onto something real, that they have all had a chance to experience.

#### KS1

As children move into Key Stage One, their learning moves away from things that they have directly experienced to things that they cannot directly experience. Experiences such as trips, visitors and handling artefacts, enable the children to access historical content and place it into a context that is relatable. They also help the children to understand change over time and the importance of places, people and artefacts in being able to make sense of the past. Purposeful learning opportunities are planned and enable children to demonstrate the skills and knowledge they have learned, through engaging in their own enquiries. The aim is to ensure children are interested in the past, why things happened and the impact of these events on the past and present.

### How does history meet our curriculum intent?

Teachers create a positive attitude to history learning within their classrooms and reinforce an expectation that all pupils are capable of achieving high standards in history. Our whole school approach to the teaching and learning of history involves the following:

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- History will be taught in planned and arranged three unit blocks by the History lead and adapted by teachers to meet the needs of their children. History is planned in a split curriculum alongside Geography.
- Our planning, is based around our sticky knowledge, each unit has historical enquiry skills built into it to foster the children's curiosities and embed their knowledge. Our History curriculum is planned to ensure that the children develop a good awareness of the past. Children will develop their understanding of the chronology of key events and significant people through our timelines.
- Children are encouraged to be curious throughout our historical units, ask their own questions and be given the opportunity to explore the answers to these questions. This curiosity is celebrated within the classroom.
- Planning involves the History lead and teachers creating engaging lessons, often involving high-quality resources to aid understanding of conceptual knowledge.
- Teachers use precise questioning in class to retrieve conceptual knowledge and skills.
- We build upon the knowledge and skill development of the previous years. As the children's knowledge and understanding increases, and they become more proficient in using their historical skills to understand the range of historical evidence being presented to them.
- Historical skills and sources of evidence are embedded into lessons to ensure these skills are being developed throughout the children's time at Coalway Infant school. New vocabulary and challenging concepts are introduced through direct teaching. This is developed through the years, in-keeping with the units.
- Teachers demonstrate how to interpret different sources of evidence, they develop the children's skills to recognise some similarities and differences between ways of life in different periods of history and they develop their analytical thinking as they progress through their time at Coalway Infant school.
- Children are offered a range of trips and workshops to complement and broaden the curriculum. These are purposeful and link with the knowledge being taught in class.
- Discrete History assemblies are also taught alongside this in recognition of significant national events, such as Remembrance Day and Bonfire Night and national celebrations as they arise, such as the King's Coronation.
- We will exploit opportunities for cross-curricular links through teaching history through other subject's e.g. using texts that link to History in English.

The successful approach at Coalway Infants results in a hands on, engaging, high-quality history education, that provides children with the foundations and knowledge for understanding the history of our local area, the British Isles and globally. Our engagement with local history ensures that children learn through varied and first hand experiences of the impact our local area has had historically in the British Isles and globally. Curiosity is promoted throughout our history to foster and nurture a love of the subject. Children will develop an understanding of how historical events and significant people have shaped the world today and will be able to articulate what they have learned in History and can describe significant periods, events and people from the past. At Coalway Infant school we encourage our children to become analytical in their thinking so they can make informed and balanced judgments based on their knowledge of the past. Our curriculum ensures that the children develop a range of enquiry skills to pursue and investigate their own interests in history beyond our history units. In each year group children have visits or workshops planned in to enhance their learning and bring the past to life.

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**Subject Leader drivers 2023-24**

Raising the profile of history:

- Review and update long term plan
- Professional development to support teachers' knowledge and skills
- Develop chronological awareness
- Monitor curriculum planning to ensure full coverage and progression of skills
- Monitor and assess the standards of pupil work