



History and Geography Policy

At Manor Farm Infant School, we believe that through the study of Humanities, children make sense of their world and enrich their understanding of it. We believe it is a tool of learning and communication and that skills developed through the study of Humanities are applicable in everyday life. It sparks curiosity and a sense of belonging to the bigger picture through time and space. Both subjects help children understand similarities and differences between societies and cultures and the impact of changes on people and places. The use of careful research, evidence and fieldwork are also crucial in developing good knowledge and understanding, which is an ideal forum for enriching and supporting other areas of the curriculum.

Aims of teaching History

- To help children understand the present in the context of the past, promoting their sense of chronology.
- To encourage pupils to empathise with peoples of the past through role play, and to respect and celebrate differences.
- To develop children's historical enquiry skills through using and evaluating evidence, asking and answering questions.
- To support them in working together to research topics, prepare arguments, organise events and present their findings in a variety of ways.
- To enrich other areas of the curriculum.

Aims of teaching Geography

- To help children make sense of their own surroundings through learning about their own locality and the interaction between people and environment
- For children to develop an interest in the wonder of the world, including an appreciation of ethnic, cultural and economic diversity.
- To develop the geographical skills necessary to carry out effective geographical enquiry.
- To develop a sense of responsibility towards the environment and an understanding of the human impact on the natural world.
- To enrich and support other areas of the curriculum.

Key Stage 1

Our history and geography learning objectives are extracted from the National Curriculum and as a starting point we use 'Plan Bee' to sequence, teach and assess. We believe very strongly that in order to become experts, the children need to be taught specific historical and geographical skills and given the opportunity to develop good understanding of the key questions within a purposeful and creative environment. Visits and Fieldwork wherever possible, opportunities for geographical fieldwork and visits to sites of historical interest are exploited. Children gain so much from these trips that they cannot experience in the classroom alone. We continue to expand our own knowledge of inspiring places and events every year and are always on the hunt for opportunities to expand beyond the classroom in order to experience first-hand. Resources topic boxes are centrally housed in the staffroom. These are sourced collectively and updated throughout the year. We make good use of ICT for research. The expertise and experience of parents, families and the wider community are utilised whenever possible.

EYFS

In the Early Years Foundation Stage, history and geography are introduced as part of the Area of Learning and Development, Understanding of the World. The children think about and explore time and place through their topics. All topics, as every area of the EYFS curriculum, are taught in an active, creative and play-based way, utilising the outdoor and indoor classroom as well as using ICT as a tool for learning. Children also develop a sense of wonder at the natural world, and begin to understand what they can do to help the environment. They become excited by learning about different countries and cultures.

Reviewed October 2023