



**Westcott Church of England School**

High Street, Westcott, Aylesbury, Buckinghamshire HP18 0PH

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Headteacher **Mr Barry Grace**

## **Westcott C of E School**

### **Humanities Policy – 2019-2021**

#### **Policy Statement**

This document is a statement of the aims, principles and strategies for the teaching and learning of Humanities (History & Geography) at Westcott Church of England School. It was developed through a process of consultation and in consideration of the demands of the New Curriculum.

**Geography** is the study of real places at different scales and of how the people living there are influenced by and affect the environment of those places. Geography explores the relationship between earth and its people. Geography studies the location of the physical and human features of the earth and the processes, systems and interrelations that create and influence them. The character of places, the subject's central focus derives from the interaction of people and environment.

**History** supports pupils in gaining knowledge and understanding of Britain's past and that of the wider world. We teach children a sense of chronology, and through this they develop a sense of identity and a cultural understanding based on their historical heritage. Thus they learn to value their own and other people's cultures in modern multicultural Britain. By considering how people lived in the past, they are better able to make their own life choices today. In our school, History makes a significant contribution to citizenship education by teaching about how Britain developed as a democratic society. We teach children to understand how events in the past have influenced our lives today; we also teach them to investigate these past events and by doing so, to develop the skills of enquiry, analysis, interpretation and problem solving.

#### **Humanities in school**

History and Geography are taught throughout the school on a 2 year rolling time table, to accommodate the mixed year group classes.

#### **EYFS (Nursery & Reception)**

Children in the Foundation Stage study History and Geography (***Understanding of the World***) through a range of fun play-based activities and experiences. Understanding of the World is split into two distinct focus areas: People and Communities and The World.





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### **People and communities**

As children learn about the world around them they find out about the past through talking to parents, grandparents and friends and they develop an interest in their own story as well as the stories in their family – this is the beginning of developing an understanding of the past and helps them to learn about how other people are different from them, yet share some of the same characteristics and ideas.

### **The World**

Understanding of the world develops as children take notice of everything around them including places and all the things within them such as trees in the natural environment and roads and traffic in the built environment. Finding out about places begins initially when a child learns about their own home and the things nearby, then later as children notice things on journeys to and from home – such as the sequence of the traffic lights or names on street signs. This awareness is extended by visiting places and finding out about different elements of environments in books, on TV and through using other technology. This aspect also focuses on learning about cause and effect and is developed through having conversations with adults and other children about the things they observe.

### **Key Stages 1 & 2**

The long term plans for humanities are based on the recommendations in the New Curriculum's Programmes of Study for History & Geography. Over a 2 year rolling timetable, subjects are carefully selected and planned for to ensure that each child experiences the appropriate range of coverage, skills and objectives expected at their level of learning.

The PoS for Geography can be found here:

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/239044/PRIMARY\\_national\\_curriculum\\_-\\_Geography.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/239044/PRIMARY_national_curriculum_-_Geography.pdf)

The PoS for History can be found here:

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/239035/PRIMARY\\_national\\_curriculum\\_-\\_History.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/239035/PRIMARY_national_curriculum_-_History.pdf)



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**Author: L Jones**

## **Aims**

At Westcott Church of England School, through teaching of the Humanities, we aim for all our children to become:

- Successful learners who enjoy learning, make progress and achieve
- Confident individuals who are able to live safe, healthy and fulfilling lives
- Responsible citizens who make a positive contribution to society.

At Westcott Church of England School, we believe the teaching of humanities is important because it stimulates children's curiosity to investigate the world and their place within it:

- Engaging children in questions about people and events in the past helps them understand the present and prepare for the future.
- Understanding people's relationships with the physical and built environment helps them form ideas about how to live.
- They learn about the impact of their actions on the planet and understand the importance of developing a future that is sustainable.
- Through exploring cultures, children develop a deeper understanding of themselves and others, and a sense of belonging.
- Historical and geographical understanding encourages children to interpret the world around them, from the local to the global.
- They become aware of how communities are organised and shaped by people's values and actions, and how communities can live and work together.
- They begin to understand how events that happened long ago or in other countries can affect our lives today and how we can help shape the future.

In these ways, children learn about similarities, differences, diversity and how we live in an interdependent world



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## **Knowledge and Key Skills**

Through teaching Humanities children build a secure knowledge of the following:

- How the present has been shaped by the past, through developing a sense of chronology, exploring change and continuity over time, and understanding why things happened
- How and why places and environments develop, how they can be sustained and how they may change in the future
- How people, communities and places are connected and can be interdependent.
- Through studying Humanities, our children are able to learn the following key skills they need to make progress:
- Undertake investigations and enquiries, using various methods, media and sources
- Compare, interpret and analyse different types of evidence from a range of sources
- Present and communicate findings in a range of ways and develop arguments and explanations using appropriate specialist vocabulary and techniques
- Consider, respond to and debate alternative viewpoints in order to take informed and responsible action

## **Teaching and Learning Style**

At Westcott Church of England School a range of teaching and learning styles are adopted. We place great emphasis on active learning by including the children in discussions, investigations, research and problem-solving activities.

The aim is to provide a range of teaching styles and learning opportunities suited to the geographical subject being taught and the abilities of the children. Teaching will include opportunities for:

- Teacher explanation.
- Talking, writing, using ICT.
- Writing across the curriculum will be visible in Big Writing when children are writing reports, instructions, explanations – this work will be in the Topic books.
- Reading a variety of books.
- Exposing the children to a range of sources of information, for example, pictures, photographs, artefacts, field trips, maps, graphs.



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- Role play
- Problem solving
- Linking the topic to other curriculum areas, such as drama, D.T., Art.
- Research.
- Recording through a range of methods including the use of tape and video recorders, as well as digital photographs to enhance their recording skills.
- Whole class work, group work, talk partners and individual work. Homework.
- SMSC.
- Field work and off-site visits.

### **Inclusion**

Please refer to our school inclusion policy.

### **Assessment and Recording**

Please refer to our Assessment and Recording policy.

### **Monitoring and Review**

The class teachers and the Humanities coordinator will monitor the approaches to teaching, learning, planning and assessment detailed in this policy. We will monitor using a variety of strategies including work sampling, lesson observation, and other documentation such as lesson plans. Any action resulting from the monitoring and evaluation process will be included in the School Improvement Plan.

This policy will be reviewed periodically, in order that we may evaluate its relevance to children, the school and the National Curriculum.

**Written: January 2019**

**Review: January 2021**

**Author: L Jones**