

History Report for Governors

September 2024

Curriculum Overview

The History curriculum at Mersey Park Primary School is designed to be comprehensive, covering key historical periods, events, and figures from both British and world history. We aim to instil a sense of curiosity and a passion for learning about the past in our students, while also developing their critical thinking and analytical skills.

Key Stages:

- **Foundation stage:** In the Foundation Stage, our pupils are given opportunities to discover and learn about the world they live in. The History element of the children's work is related to the Knowledge and Understanding of the World objectives set out in the EYFS Statutory Framework. The children learn about the recent past through their own history and then delve further using traditional stories.
- **Key Stage 1 (Years 1 and 2):** Students learn about significant historical events and people, such as the Great Fire of London and the lives of Queen Victoria and Neil Armstrong. They begin to develop a sense of chronology and an understanding of how events are interconnected.
- **Key Stage 2 (Years 3 to 6):** The curriculum expands to cover a wider range of historical periods and themes, including Ancient Egypt, Roman Britain, the Viking and Anglo-Saxon struggle for the Kingdom of England, and further afield with the Maya civilisation. Students engage in more in-depth study where they start to evaluate sources and evidence, plus they will also compare the pros and cons between civilisations.

Achievements and Highlights

Sorting objects by age on a timeline



Hunting for historical land marks



Romans trip to Chester



Large scale timeline for the Egyptians



Analyzing objects from the Maya and drawing them

Field Trips and Enrichment Activities:

- **Year 1 New Brighton Trip:** Children were able to see what the seaside town looked like now and they compared it to what it used to look like in the past.
- **Year 1 Toy Museum:** Children were given the opportunity to experience toys from the past.
- **Year 4 Roman Day:** An immersive experience where students march through Chester as Romans, participated in workshops, and learned about Roman life and culture through hands-on activities.
- **Year 5 Maya Workshop:** This workshop included real and handling replica artefacts, and meeting an archaeologist who has worked in Guatemala, which deeply enriched the students' understanding of this period in history.

Professional Development

To ensure our teachers are well-equipped to deliver an outstanding History curriculum, we have invested in the School Improvement Liverpool plan. This has allowed us to keep updated with all the new things happening in History including new innovations such as AI (Artificial intelligence). Other opportunities for development have been:

- **Workshops and Training:** Teachers attended workshops on teaching historical inquiry and using primary sources effectively.
- **Collaborative Planning:** Regular planning sessions where teachers share best practices and resources, ensuring a cohesive and high-quality curriculum across year groups.

End of School Year Data:

Below is the data gathered from the end of the school year

	% Below expectations	% At Expectations	% Above Expectations
Year 1	52%	38%	10%
Year 2	32%	59%	9%
Year 3	19%	59%	22%
Year 4	23%	70%	7%
Year 5	24%	55%	21%
Year 6	26%	61%	13%

Looking at the data it is clear to see that the majority of students in each year group are at expected level with a small proportion working above. There is however, close to a third of each year group that are falling behind. To cover these gaps we have implemented recap quizzes that will help all children retain the data and allow those that have struggled in previous years to catch up. With more time working on this, I hope to see less children working below and more working at above expectations.

Future Plans

Looking ahead, we are excited to continue developing our History curriculum with several key initiatives:

- **History week:** A dedicated week where the whole school will focus on history-related activities, including guest speakers, themed lessons, and a history fair showcasing student projects.
- **Digital History Resources:** Introducing more digital tools and online resources including AI (artificial intelligence) tools to enhance learning and engagement, including virtual museum tours and interactive timelines.

Conclusion

We are proud of the progress and achievements in our History curriculum at Mersey Park Primary School. Our students are developing a strong understanding and appreciation of history, which will serve them well in their future education and as informed citizens. We look forward to building on this success and continuing to inspire a love of history in our students.