



History Curriculum



Intent: At St Swithun's Catholic Primary School, we aim to deliver a high-quality history curriculum that inspires pupils' curiosity about the past and develops a deep understanding of British, local and world history.

Rooted in our Catholic ethos, we encourage children to reflect on how individuals, communities and societies have shaped the world over time, helping them to understand their place within history and the wider world. Through the study of significant people, events and civilisations, pupils develop empathy, respect and an appreciation of diversity across different periods and cultures.

Our curriculum ensures that all pupils:

- Develop a secure chronological understanding of local, British and world history
- Explore the lives of significant individuals and civilisations
- Learn to think critically by questioning, interpreting and evaluating evidence
- Understand how the past has shaped the present
- Build a curiosity and enthusiasm for discovering more about history
- Develop the skills of a historian through enquiry, analysis and discussion

Children learn about the rich history of Portsmouth and the surrounding area, enabling them to develop a sense of identity, belonging and pride in their local heritage.

Implementation: At St Swithun's, history is taught through carefully sequenced termly units that build knowledge and disciplinary skills progressively across the school. The curriculum is structured to ensure pupils revisit and deepen key historical concepts over time, including:

- Chronology
- Cause and consequence
- Similarity and difference
- Change and continuity
- Historical significance
- Interpretation and evidence

Progression is mapped across all phases and children encounter a wide range of historical periods, including:

Prehistoric Britain

Ancient civilisations

Anglo-Saxons and Vikings

Tudors and World War history

Local Portsmouth history

Teaching Approach

Our teaching approach ensures that pupils actively think and work as historians:

- Use of historical enquiry questions to drive learning
- Explicit teaching of historical vocabulary and concepts
- Opportunities to analyse and interpret primary and secondary sources
- Use of discussion, debate and comparison
- Development of chronological understanding through timelines and retrieval practice



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Adaptation and Inclusion

- Adaptation is embedded throughout the history curriculum to ensure all pupils can succeed:
- Use of scaffolded source analysis and enquiry prompts
- Visual timelines and retrieval activities to support chronology
- Differentiated texts, vocabulary banks and sentence stems
- Opportunities for collaborative learning and peer discussion
- Practical and creative outcomes to support engagement and understanding

Our pupil-centred approach ensures all children can access historical learning and develop confidence as historians.

Local History and Enrichment

History learning is enriched through opportunities to explore the history of:

- Portsmouth and the local area
- Significant local landmarks and historical events
- Museums, historical sites and educational visits where possible

Children are encouraged to make links between:

- Local history and national events
- Historical change and modern society
- The experiences of people in the past and present day

These opportunities help pupils appreciate how history shapes their identity and community.

Catholic Social Teaching in History

At St Swithun's, history is enriched through the principles of Catholic Social Teaching. Through studying the experiences of people and societies across time, pupils develop an understanding of human dignity, justice and the importance of community. Children explore how individuals and groups have challenged injustice, influenced change and contributed to the common good. By learning about different cultures, beliefs and experiences, pupils develop empathy, solidarity and respect for others. History also encourages pupils to reflect on the responsibilities of citizenship and how lessons from the past can help build a fairer and more compassionate world today.

Impact: By the time pupils leave St Swithun's Catholic Primary School, they will:

- Have a secure understanding of local, British and world history
- Demonstrate a strong sense of chronology and historical perspective
- Use historical vocabulary and evidence confidently
- Think critically and ask perceptive historical questions
- Understand how societies and individuals have changed over time
- Appreciate the diversity and complexity of human experience
- Develop curiosity and enthusiasm for learning about the past

Pupils leave St Swithun's as thoughtful, reflective and inquisitive learners who understand how history has shaped the world around them and their place within it.

"The more you know about the past, the better prepared you are for the future"
– Theodore Roosevelt