



History Curriculum

Intent

At St Austin's, our History curriculum is rooted in Gospel values, ensuring that our pupils develop into compassionate, knowledgeable, and reflective individuals who appreciate the richness of the past and its impact on our world today. Inspired by our mission to "love and serve as Jesus taught," we aim to cultivate a deep sense of social justice, respect and integrity in historical studies.

We provide an engaging and inclusive curriculum that enables every pupil to "know more, remember more, and understand more" about local, national, and global history. We inspire pupils' curiosity about the past, encouraging them to ask perceptive questions, think critically, weigh evidence and develop their ability to make informed judgments. Our curriculum seeks to instill a sense of identity by helping pupils understand their own heritage, the diverse societies that have shaped our world and the Gospel values of truth, respect, and service.

Through carefully sequenced learning, we develop pupils' understanding of historical concepts such as cause and consequence, change and continuity, power, and legacy. We integrate cross-curricular opportunities that strengthen pupils' literacy skills by embedding reading and writing across historical studies. Pupils engage in meaningful discussions, debates, and written reflections that develop their comprehension and communication skills. Our history curriculum is ambitious and motivating, designed to challenge pupils through engaging learning experiences, high-quality resources, and enrichment activities that bring the past to life.

Implementation

Our history curriculum is designed to provide pupils with a broad and balanced understanding of key historical periods and events, from the Stone Age to modern Britain, interwoven with significant world history, such as the civilizations of Ancient Egypt, Ancient Greece, and the Maya. Lessons follow a spiral curriculum model, ensuring that pupils revisit and build upon prior knowledge, leading to secure understanding over time.

As a Catholic school, we integrate Gospel values into historical discussions, encouraging pupils to consider moral and ethical perspectives, such as fairness, justice, and the impact of historical events on



different communities. Key historical figures and events are explored through the lens of Catholic Social Teaching, fostering empathy and understanding of issues such as migration, conflict, and human rights.

History is taught in alternating terms through enquiry-based learning. Each unit begins with an overarching question that encourages pupils to explore, investigate, and evaluate historical sources critically. Pupils use primary and secondary sources, maps, photographs, and artefacts to develop their understanding and analysis skills.

Cross-curricular literacy links are embedded throughout history lessons. Pupils read a wide range of historical texts, including biographies, speeches, and primary source extracts, to enhance their comprehension skills. Writing opportunities are integrated through tasks such as diary entries, newspaper reports, persuasive arguments, and research projects, allowing pupils to apply their literacy skills in meaningful historical contexts.

Enrichment opportunities play a vital role in our history curriculum, providing pupils with experiential learning beyond the classroom. Historical trips and visits—including Chester Roman Walls, the Western Approaches Museum and Liverpool Museums—allow pupils to engage directly with historical artefacts and locations. We celebrate key historical events and figures through themed days such as Remembrance Day, Black History Month and International Women's Day. Cross-curricular projects integrate history with the arts, drama and digital literacy, enabling pupils to showcase their understanding creatively through re-enactments, storytelling, and multimedia presentations.

Impact

Our history curriculum ensures that pupils leave St Austin's with a deep appreciation of the past and a strong foundation in historical knowledge and skills. By fostering a spirit of enquiry, pupils learn to think critically, engage in thoughtful discussions, and construct well-reasoned arguments based on evidence. The integration of Gospel values ensures that they develop a sense of justice, respect, and responsibility as global citizens.

Using formative assessment strategies such as quizzes, peer discussions, and vocabulary checks, we track pupils' understanding and progress. Pupil voice interviews provide insights into their engagement and enjoyment of history. Written work is regularly reviewed to ensure progression in historical skills and knowledge, with assessments embedded at the end of each unit.



By the time pupils complete Year 6, they will have a chronological understanding of British history, as well as an appreciation of key world civilizations. They will be able to make connections across different historical periods and analyse how past events influence the present and future. Our pupils will leave with a passion for history, strong literacy skills, and a moral compass shaped by Gospel values, ready to contribute meaningfully to the world around them.