

DEEP DIVE:

Curriculum area: History



'Excellence Every day'



INTRODUCTION

Our curriculum is at the heart of our educational provision, offering a broad and exciting daily offer to ignite a love of learning in all of our pupils.

Our vision is focused on ambition, aspiration and progression and this is delivered through our curriculum model.

All of our pupils have the opportunity to experience hands-on learning and experiences which enrich their classroom activities. This may be through trips, external visitors to the schools or virtual experiences as well as workshops. Our aim is to close the gap in disadvantage and offer all pupils an inspiring provision which gives equal access to all.

Learning in **Illuminate Minds Trust schools** is more than the acquisition of skills and knowledge. It is also the chance to widen opportunities and expose pupils to a world beyond their lived experiences. We see our role as preparing children and young people for life and society, helping to build sustainable communities where people care about each other and the world around them.

Every subject area has a curriculum which is constructed carefully around sequential learning, revising prior learning and recognising the links between this and future steps. Embedded within each area are enrichment experiences, references to career choices and links to cultures and backgrounds which reflect our pupil population.

Choice is central to our learning offer. Our schools want to equip pupils with the confidence to make their own choices and exposure to experiences which inform those choices. You cannot consider a path in life of which you are unaware.

In order to grow and develop, it is vital that our pupils have the confidence and motivation to accept challenges and recognise that learning is not always easy. We want our pupils to face challenges without fear and know that they can make mistakes, because life will throw things at them and they have the ability to solve problems and overcome them. Success breeds success. Having confidence through actually seeing you can achieve and you can find a way through difficulties is key in continually building the self-awareness and resilience which will enable our pupils to manage themselves through life. Recognising the value of education and knowing that life is about continual learning means that loving learning from the outset is vital. Our curriculum in every subject is shaped to take children on that journey....

CURRICULUM AREA: HISTORY

Intent

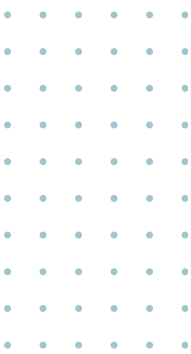
At Illuminate Minds, our curriculum allows children to construct a deep understanding of the past and how time periods and events fit together into stories of the past. Our history curriculum encourages critical thinking, enhances children’s ability to evaluate evidence using a range of sources and to generate arguments. Above all, we want our pupils to be passionate about history and develop a love of learning in this subject discipline. Our history curriculum is designed to foster wonder and curiosity, and inspires pupils to ask perceptive questions and be actively inquisitive. Links are carefully planned between history and our curriculum themes, so that children contextualise their learning, make connections with prior knowledge and shape their understanding of the world on a local, national and global scale. The children are given opportunities to compare our modern world to the past, focussing on scale, duration and concurrence.

Implementation

Our sequential curriculum allows pupils to connect with historic periods and events in order to understand their place within the world. Children develop an understanding of the concept of time and the past in the Early Years Foundation Stage and build on this in Key Stage 1. Through skilfully planned learning journeys, children explore the characteristics of time periods; learning about people’s lives during the historical period as well as aspects including society, culture, economy, military, religion and politics. Children will have the opportunity to use evidence and sources to gain further knowledge whilst evaluating the reliability of a range of primary and secondary sources. A detailed chronology provides children with knowledge and understanding of Britain’s past and that of the wider world.

Impact

Children establish clear narratives within and across the periods they study as well as events occurring elsewhere in the world during the same period. Within the learning journey, children will be able to form an opinion of this historical period or event, articulate whether their thinking has been challenged and further explore the opinions of others from the past to the present.



CURRICULUM AREA: HISTORY

Cultural Capital

Visitors and trips are a core aspect, providing an immersive context for learning, allowing children to explore historical accounts and sources. Through cross-curricular opportunities, children are exposed to a range of high-quality texts linked to their history topics as well as opportunities to apply their historical knowledge in fiction and non-fiction writing outcomes.

Equality and Diversity

Each time period the children study is considered with a wider lens from those traditionally depicted with a focus on diversity and an appreciation of stories from different groups of people within the time period. For example, children will be able to explore 'hidden histories' such as the untold story of the black Tudors. As a result, children will understand the complexity of people's lives in the past, the process of change and similarities and differences between challenges of the past and current times.

Our SEND Approach

Children are able to make connections between different time periods and core themes through our carefully sequenced curriculum. Each lesson begins with a form of retrieval, supporting all learners to acquire sticky knowledge to help them succeed within the lesson. Quality First Teaching is at the heart of all lessons, with adaptations made to support all learners.

