History 20 St Aloysius



Intent

At St Aloysius, we understand the importance that the history curriculum plays in providing a rich and broad primary education. We are committed to providing an exceptional history curriculum which helps our pupils to make sense of the present as well as the past and supports them to appreciate the complexity and diversity of human societies and development.

Our intention is that every child will be an interested and inquisitive learner of history. We follow the National Curriculum programmes of study for each year group, aiming to create the very best historians, well equipped to continue their studies in history as they move throughout their education. We challenge pupils to think, act and speak like those working in the field would, by developing a consistent approach across all year groups. Substantive knowledge and disciplinary knowledge are explicitly taught. By substantive knowledge we mean the people, events and developments from the past that children will learn about. By disciplinary knowledge, we mean all the various processes that children need to develop if they are to get better at a subject. This can both refer to a process of doing something (e.g. interpreting a source) but also a thought process in order to understand big concepts such as change, continuity and consequence.

High quality history teaching in primary school is our ultimate goal. This forms part of a larger progressive curriculum into KS3 and KS4. Our cohesive approach to teaching history in St Aloysius is driven by several key principles. We began with the idea that getting better at history requires both substantive and disciplinary knowledge to be carefully blended together in all planning and teaching. Neither can be taught without the other. When planning our units, we took note of the preambles at the start of each key stage and did not simply focus on the *'Pupils should be taught about'* section in order to creative clear, cohesive and sequential long-term planning, accounting for prior knowledge and key skills for meaningful progression. Our units recognise that it is fundamental children develop chronological knowledge, both in terms of sequencing periods of history and of having a clear sense of the characteristics of a particular period. Linking learning within and across key stages is essential to developing the bigger picture of history. In order to communicate their understanding, key historical terms are taught well and in context. The explicit teaching of the precise and subtly changing meanings of vocabulary linked to each topic has been developed over time with careful planning and revisiting allowing for long-term retention.

Historical concepts need to be rooted in the study of actual historical people, events, and development, which allows for the flow of the immediate narrative of learning and brings it to life and serves to build up an unseen and almost instinctive layer that forms our longer-term knowledge. It is this that underpins all future learning, giving us a chronological framework, historical terms and key concepts that enhance our learning across the curriculum.

| Curriculum Coverage | | | | | | |
|---------------------|----|-------|-----------------------------------|-----|---|--|
| Upper KS2 | Y6 | × | Conflict through time | F | Crime and Punishment | |
| | Y5 | 1 | Anglo Saxon and Viking Britain | G | Early Islamic Civilisation | |
| Lower KS2 | Y4 | Â | Ancient Greece | | Roman Empire and its impact on Britain | |
| | Y3 | tea - | Stone Age to Iron Age | 4 | Ancient Egypt | |
| KS1 | Y2 | ł | Great Fire of London | 285 | Comparing Queens | |
| | Y1 | Ş | Toys through time | â | Women in History | |

Implementation

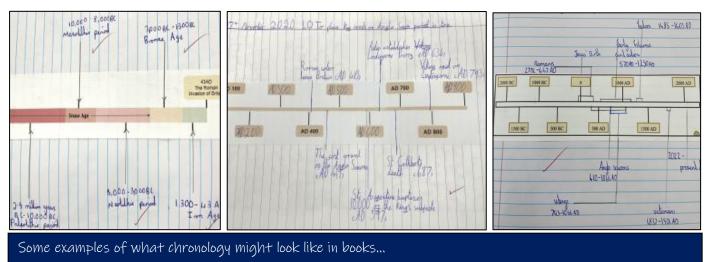
We have developed our curriculum, working alongside Secondary experts, by carefully considering the building blocks needed to make progress in history from EYFS to Y6; identifying what knowledge and skills are essential to pupils' understanding. Our curriculum is based upon four key threshold concepts:

- Chronology
- Thinking like a historian
- Investigating the past
- · Communicating history

High quality input from experts and educational resources, including detailed CPD, complement the delivery of specialist learning, just as high-quality teaching responds to the needs of children. Collaborative planning created by both Primary and Secondary colleagues, provides units of work, rooted in historical content, which focus on embedding challenge, metacognition, retrieval and practice.

<u>Chronology - Why is it important?</u>

Generating a mental timeline makes pupils existing historical knowledge more secure and therefore makes new knowledge easier to learn. The idea of chronology is introduced in EYFS with visual timelines of the day and discussions about what has already happened and what will happen next. Chronological understanding builds year on year as children become more confident understanding and plotting key moments in time.

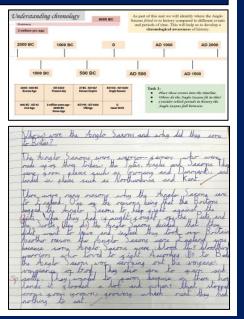


How do our units of work help to develop chronological understanding?

All of the units in our curriculum have been designed in a sequence of learning to support students chronological understanding. For instance, the Romans and Ancient Egypt in Y4 followed by the Anglo-Saxons and Early Islamic Civilisation in Y5.

Each individual unit of work also has chronological understanding at the core of the unit with reference to dates/key events in specific lessons and how this links to the bigger picture.

For example, pupils in Key Stage 2 may investigate 'Who were the Anglo-Saxons and why did they come to Britain?'





Thinking like a historian - What does that mean?



There are seven disciplinary concepts (second order concepts) which we use in history. Five of them relate to 'Thinking like a historian'. These relate to types of historical argument taught to pupils, and include:

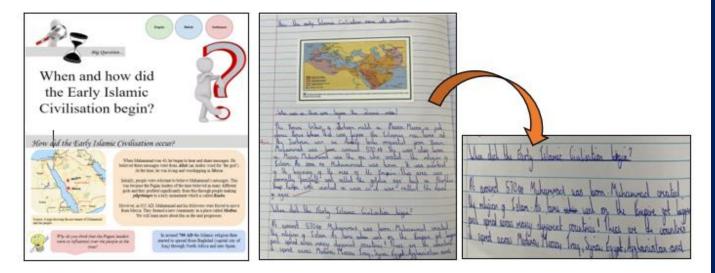
- cause
- consequence
- change and continuity
- similarity and difference
- historical significance

The other two of the seven relate to the threshold concept of 'investigating the past'.

Each lesson should be focused on one of these concepts.

<u>Cause</u>

This relates to the art of causal reasoning: how or why events or states of affairs occurred or emerged. For example, pupils in KS1 will look at what caused the Great Fire of London to start and pupils in KS2 may investigate when and how Early Islamic Civilisation began.



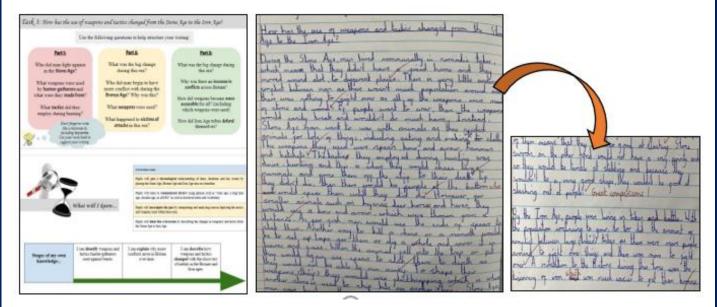
<u>Consequence</u>

This relates to the consequences of an event or development. For example, in their KS1 unit, Great Fire of London, pupils will examine how the landscape of London changed as a consequence of the fire. In KS2, pupils investigate the consequences that the Viking invasion had on Lindisfarne in the 8th century.

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Change and Continuity

This relates to historical analysis of the pace, nature and extent of change. For example, a Key Stage 2 pupil may investigate the extent, pace or nature of change in warfare between the Stone Age and the Iron Age. In KS1, children will learn about toys from the past, learn about how/why they have changed making links to toys they may see today.



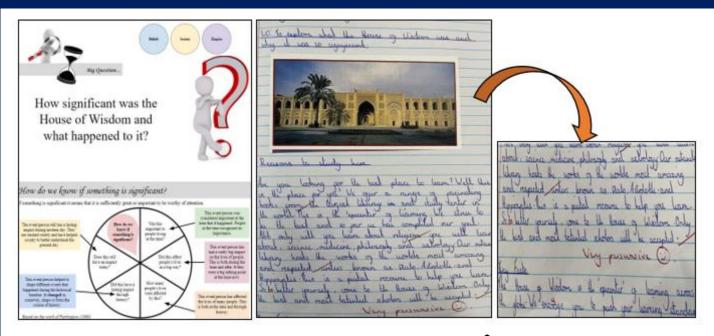
Similarity and Difference

This relates to historical analysis of the extent and type of difference between people, groups, experiences or places, usually in the same historical period. For example, a KS2 pupil may investigate the similarities and differences between Viking and Anglo-Saxon armies - including their soldiers, weapons and tactics.

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Historical Significance

This focuses on how and why historical events, trends and individuals are ascribed historical significance. For example, a KS2 pupil may investigate why the House of Wisdom was significant in the history of Islam and a KS1 pupil may examine why Mary Seacole and Mary Anning were significant historical figures.



Investigating the past - how do we do this?



This Threshold Concept is concerned with how historians investigate the past. This includes:

- Understanding how interpretations of the past are constructed.
- Making inferences about the past through analysis of contemporary historical sources.
- Conducting historical enquiry about the reliability of sources.

What is a source and an interpretation?

- **Source** Contemporary sources (from the time being studied) e.g. a newspaper article, artefact, diary entry, photograph.
- Interpretation An interpretation of the past e.g. by a historian, a painting of the past, a documentary about the past.
- Historians use **sources** to construct their **interpretations** of the past.

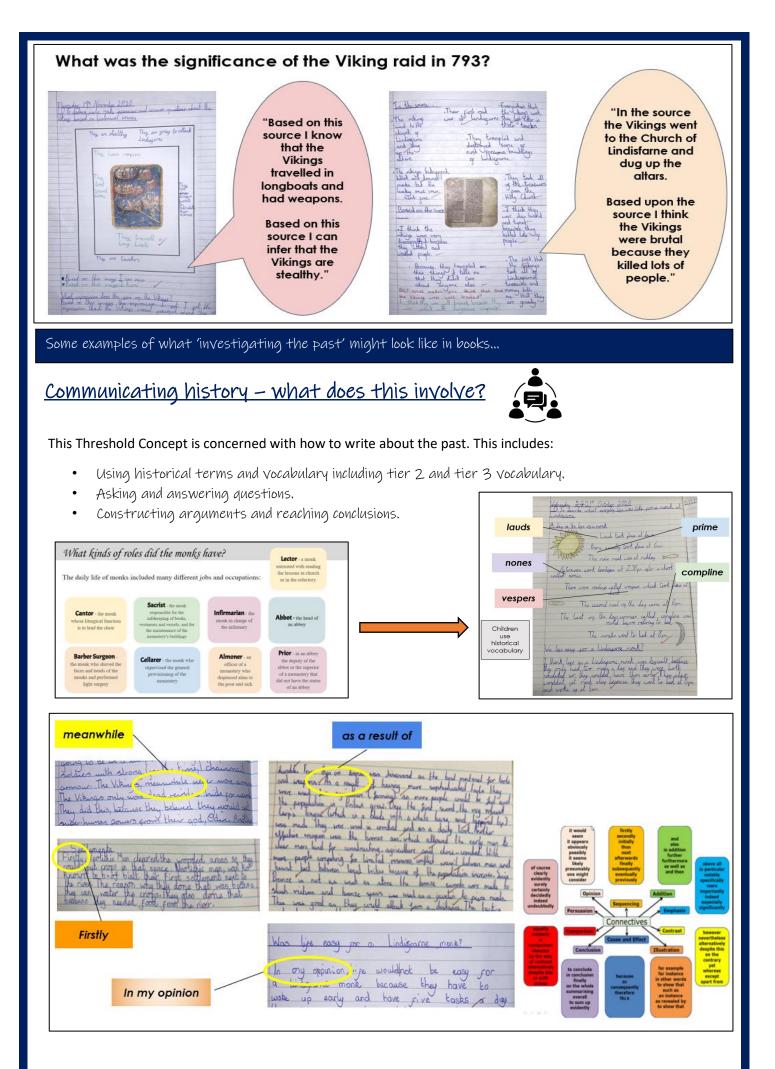
It is important that our pupils learn how historians use sources as evidence to construct, challenge or test claims about the past. E.g. 'Why is it hard for historians to reconstruct the lives of people in the Indus Valley civilisations?' encourages a focus on disciplinary knowledge relating to sources and evidence.

Effective teaching about sources and evidence teaches pupils to use sources to establish evidence for a specific historical question.

It's helpful for pupils to:

- Encounter a wide range of sources and source types e.g. objects, oral histories, written sources
- Study individual sources in depth
- Investigate collections of sources
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This helps pupils see how historians use source collections.



Impact

At St Aloysius, our history units build sequentially on the children's understanding of key history skills a (threshold concepts) and culminate in a final assessment activity and knowledge quiz and the end of each unit of work. The curriculum is broad and offers a range of chronological periods and geographical perspectives to enable children to have both a good understanding of their local history whilst also developing the bigger global picture. In today's modern world, it is more important than ever to debate and consider information, we do not want our pupils to just accept what they are told.

Pupil dialogue and work in books demonstrate the high standard of history being taught. St Aloysius pupils are able to talk with historical language and vocabulary about a particular period. They can make links and connections to what they have been taught previously. Historical learning and enjoyment is visible.

Teaching history ensures our pupils understand the complexities of people, societies and change, thus enabling them to understand their identity within society. It shows them models of good and responsible citizenship; right and wrong, morals and ethics.



Striving for Excellence, Inspired by Gospel Values