

SMSC in Primary History

SPIRITUAL – The study of History involves a sense of curiosity and the mystery of how and why events in the past happened, as well as raising questions as to what could have happened if an event’s results were different. Artefacts are used to give pupils a sense of the past and aid pupils in understanding the people who produced and used these objects. Pupils are encouraged to explore the role played by important individuals, for good or ill, in the shaping of the world we live in. Pupils also reflect upon different interpretations of the past and how these interpretations have been arrived at.

MORAL – Pupils are asked to consider and comment on moral questions and dilemmas. Events and beliefs in the past will often be at odds with what we would consider unacceptable today (and were to some people in the past also). Pupils will be encouraged to show compassion for people facing dilemmas and to empathise with decisions which people in the past made and the reasoning behind these decisions. Notions of right and wrong are explored in connection with events from the past, linking with the value of justice.

SOCIAL – Pupils will explore the similarities and contrasts between past and present societies and be made aware of how, in the main, we are very fortunate to live in ‘the modern world’, which links with the value of thankfulness. They will examine how other cultures have had a major impact on the development of ‘British’ culture. Pupils will also be encouraged to build up their own social development through collaborative and team working activities. The study of social issues is a common theme in History lessons.

CULTURAL – Pupils will study, and be encouraged to gain an understanding of and empathise with people from different cultural backgrounds. They will examine how other cultures have had a major impact on the development of ‘British’ culture. Pupils develop a better understanding of our multicultural society through studying links between local, British, European and world history. The contribution of different cultures to human development and progress are studied, which links with the values of wisdom and endurance.

Specific examples of Spiritual, Moral Social and Cultural Develop in History include:

- The use of artefacts to understand how historians study the past and to help pupils gain an understanding of the people who produced these objects
- The study of 19th century (Victorians- Year 2) living and working conditions (including child labour).
- The role of individuals, for example Mary Anning (Year 1), Alexander Bell (Year 2) and Alan Turing (Year 5).
- Pupils explore the beliefs and values of past societies and from different cultures.
- Social issues - the study of the experiences of people with different races and genders in Britain and beyond during the 20th century.
- Pupils exploring the treatment and persecution of minorities in Hitler’s Germany (Year 5).