



St Dennis Primary Academy – History



“History is who we are and why we are the way we are.” – David McCullough

The study of history involves a sense of curiosity and the mystery of how and why events in the past happened and raises questions as to what could have happened if events had had different results. Artefacts are used to give children a sense of the past and aid them in understanding the people who produced and used these objects. Children at St Dennis are encouraged to explore the role played by important individuals, for good or ill, in the shaping of the world we live in. They also reflect upon different interpretations of the past and how these interpretations have been arrived at.

Children explore the similarities and differences between past and present societies and are made aware of how, in the main, we are very fortunate to live in the modern world. They examine how other cultures have had a major impact on the development of British culture. Children 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.



Children 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. Children are 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. Ideas of right and wrong are explored in connection with events from the past, linking with the value of justice.

Children are encouraged to gain an understanding of and empathise with people from different cultural backgrounds. They examine how other cultures have had a major impact on the development of British culture. They 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 mutual respect and tolerance and the respect of opinions and diversity.