

# LAVANT C.E. PRIMARY SCHOOL



*Learning together in faith – always aiming for the best*

## HUMANITIES POLICY

Written: May 2019  
Next Review: May 2021

## **Humanities**

At Lavant Primary School we believe that, through the study of Humanities, children make sense of their world and enrich their understanding of it. We believe it is a tool of learning and communication and that skills developed through the study of Humanities are applicable in everyday life. It fires curiosity and sparks a sense of belonging to the bigger picture through time and space.

Both history and geography help children understand similarities and differences between societies and cultures and the impact of changes on people and places. The use of careful research, evidence and fieldwork, are also crucial in developing good knowledge and understanding, which is an ideal forum for enriching and supporting other areas of the curriculum.

## **Links with school aims**

**To provide** inspirational real life learning experiences which challenge, engage and motivate within a creative, inclusive Christian environment.

**To nurture** reflective learners who have a sense of responsibility, humility and respect.

**To encourage** effective, purposeful collaboration between individuals, who understand the importance of their contribution to local and global communities.

**To foster** a life-long love of learning where individuals accept challenges and take risks with the perseverance to adapt and aspire.

## **Planning**

We have developed a creative broad and balanced curriculum which offers children the opportunity to study history and geography areas of study through a cross curricular Learning Journey approach.

Learning journeys are clear, concise units of work (lasting approximately 2-3 weeks) which link concepts together in a natural way to create the best learning experience for the children in our school. Children are 'hooked' into their learning by an exciting opener, be it a visit, visitor, artefact and given a real purpose to their learning. English skills are developed alongside other curriculum areas and the development of oral communication and writing are planned for and embedded to provide meaningful contexts for children to write.

By improving the use of the local area and increasing out of classroom learning experiences, children's motivation levels are improved and this impacts across the curriculum, as children learn to transfer the skills taught. The Humanities are taught through a range of active learning and skills-focused methods including:

active investigation, direct teaching, research, handling of artefacts, observing photographs, paintings and maps, role plays and simulations, fieldwork, visits and visitors.

Our history and geography learning objectives are extracted from the National Curriculum and are carefully tracked on our Curriculum coverage document to ensure that the children are taught specific historical and geographical skills and given the opportunity to develop good understanding of the key questions within a purposeful and creative environment.

**Through our approach to teaching History we aim to help children to:**

- Develop a strong sense of chronology of Great Britain and the world.
- Understand that the society in which they live has been shaped by developments in the past.
- Learn about the roles that individuals, movements and events have played in shaping modern society.
- Develop critical curiosity and reasoning skills by asking questions, making connections and investigating sources.
- Develop the ability to communicate historical knowledge and understanding orally, visually, and in writing, using appropriate techniques and vocabulary.
- Understand how and why some aspects of the past are subject to different Interpretations.
- Understand that History needs to be studied from a variety of perspectives. Feel inspired to extend learning beyond the school day by visiting the many museums and galleries in their local area.
- Engage with the fundamental British Values of democracy and the rule of law

**Through our approach to teaching Geography we aim to help children to:**

- Develop core geographical knowledge of their local area, Great Britain and the world.
- Understand and use maps, atlases and digital technologies.
- Understand the causes and impacts of Climate Change and develop a proactive attitude to sustainability.
- Appreciate the impact that people's decisions, actions and activities have on the physical and human environment.
- Develop awareness of the interrelationship of places, people, industries and countries of the world.
- Develop a positive attitude towards and an understanding of other cultures and ways of life.
- Develop the ability to communicate geographical knowledge and understanding orally, visually, and in writing using appropriate techniques and vocabulary.
- Develop critical curiosity and reasoning skills by asking questions, making connections and investigating sources.
- Engage with the fundamental British Values of respect and tolerance of those with differing cultures.

**EYFS**

In Early Years Foundation Stage, history and geography are introduced as part of the Area of Learning and Development, Understanding of the World. The children think about and explore time and place through their topics. All topics, as with every area of the EYFS curriculum, are taught in an active, creative and play-based way, utilising the outdoor and indoor classroom as well as using technology as a tool for learning.

Children also develop a sense of wonder at the natural world, and begin to understand what they can do to help the environment. They become excited by learning about different countries and cultures.

**Assessment and recording**

We assess children's work in the humanities by making informal judgements as we observe them during teaching sessions and by assessing how well they use the knowledge gained for the end goal. On completion of a piece of work, the teacher marks the work and comments as necessary.

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