

History Learning Walk 23 October 2018.

A group of governors visited school to find out about teaching and learning in History.

What did we do?

First, we talked to Mrs. Pickering the History co-ordinator about the topics, skills and time-allocations in History. We then visited the different classes to see what the children were learning.

Year 1 were looking at and playing with different toys from the past (pick-up sticks, cup and ball, artist pencils, Happy Families card game and a variety of toys on the mat) and talking about them with staff.

Year 2 were in the hall with a role-play activity about being evacuated, using a BBC radio workshop.

Year 3 were writing a timeline about flight.

Year 4 were creating a PowerPoint Quiz reflecting on their learning during the whole topic. They shared this during the celebration assembly on 25 October.

Year 5 were writing about what they had been learning about so that they could then tell their teacher.

Year 6 were writing about their visit to the Discovery Museum archives.

Links to Post-Ofsted Action Plan

LM1 p12 Action: teachers to provide opportunities for extended writing in all subjects, which match expectations in English books.

LM3 To embed assessment systems that capture accurate information about pupils' progress and inform teachers' and leaders' planning effectively

p17 Action: Subject leaders accurately assess key skills, knowledge and understanding across all foundation subjects

LM5 To equip all leaders with the skills, knowledge and understanding needed to drive improvement in their areas of responsibility

p19 Action: curriculum leaders to organise a curriculum week

What did we learn?

We were told about the whole-school History Project based on Frederick Douglass, which covers the NC aspect of local History and has involved the school working with the local community. A time-trail relating to this is now on the school website as a half-term activity. We found out that skills development is one of the requirements of the History curriculum and that these skills are developed as the children progress through school. Curriculum time allocated to History is 1 hour per week over three half-terms of the school year.

Positive comments?

The children responded well to the different activities and all classes showed engagement with their learning. In year 2 they were very good at listening to and following the instructions. Children in Year 5 commented positively on History club and were pleased that their work was going in the school website. Books showed development of skills. Additional adults were used to support learning in most classes. We could see cross-curricular work as the children were using ICT. The children were able to tell us what they were doing and were confident when they talked to us. From our discussion with Mrs Pickering we could see that subject co-ordinators are developing their areas and are monitoring teaching and learning.

Any questions?

We asked about CPD and its impact. There has been some work with St Cuthbert's High School on skills development. There will also be a staff meeting for CPD in history during this term where staff will review the history curriculum and the resources held in school as well as doing some work on the use of primary historical resources with children. This is linked to progression in skills development. They will also be looking at the aspect of chronology. We asked about time allocations in the subject and about the curriculum maps on the website.

Future visits

It would be interesting to visit again when classes were looking at different themes and it would be useful to have more time to ask the children about their skills in History.