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**Statement of Intent for History**

Here at St. Michael’s Infant School, we aim to:

* stimulate children’s interest, understanding and curiosity about the lives of people who lived in the past and how the past has influenced the present
* inspire children’s pride in their local area by studying local history and historical figures who were significant locally
* support children to develop the concept of chronology and identify where historical events and figures fit within a simple chronological framework
* equip children with historical skills and knowledge, enabling them to ask questions, think critically, weigh evidence, scrutinise arguments, and improve perspective and judgement through a historical enquiry approach

Our young historians begin their journey in the Early Years, where they are provided with experiences in which enable them to develop skills of enquiry and critical thinking. By providing the children with the opportunity to discuss changes in their own lives and the lives of others, we set the foundations of chronology. This stimulates children with a curiosity to learn about lives of others beyond their living memory. Children bring in ‘All about me boxes’ to share who they are and show what they have experienced at home and in the holidays. We look at how we have changed since we were a baby, ‘how we have grown’, use ‘nursery rhymes’ and artefacts to find out how objects in the past are different to objects we use now. We also use a range of books to answer the question ‘Who were the greatest explorers?’

In Year 1, children use the skills of enquiry and exploration they have learnt in the Early Years, to answer key questions and develop their ability to collect information and make sense of ideas to reach a conclusion. We use artefacts, books, first-hand accounts and photos to find the answer to these key questions; *How have toys changed over time? Why do we remember Samuel Cody and Amelia Earhart? and How can we find out what happened to the Titanic?*

In Year 2, children continue to enhance their enquiry skills through questioning the information given, answering key questions and justifying their historical opinions. The key questions in Year 2 will build on their critical thinking, curiosity and give children the freedom to express their thoughts on the changes, set in motion by events in the past, in the world around them. Year 2 key questions are: *Why is there a memorial in Manor Park? (Local History – Remembrance), How did Florence Nightingale and Mary Seacole change hospitals? How did the Great Fire of London change London? and What difference did Rosa Parks make?*