



**Holy Trinity C of E Primary School**  
**Humanities Vision, Guidelines and Policy**

The Learning Challenge concept is built around the principle of greater learner involvement; resulting in a rich and meaningful curriculum which promotes high standards. The approach is under-pinned by a secure pedagogical framework which links together best practice in the Curriculum, Teaching and Learning and Assessment.

The vision of humanities at Holy Trinity is one that values:

- Planning built around the distinctive needs of our children
- Enquiry based learning which promotes curiosity
- Outcomes driven to raise standards
- Embedding the application of basic skills
- Allows writing to be meaningfully embedded
- Cross-curricular

**Role of the subject leader:**

To ensure that all members of the school community understand the vision of humanities at Holy Trinity and to lead, challenge and support all achieving the vision by:

Ensuring curriculum policies, guidelines and resources are well organised, reviewed, updated and easily accessible  
Maintaining clarity of expectations in relation to planning, assessment and teaching and learning  
Developing standards in teaching and learning  
Identifying and addressing strengths and areas for development  
Informing, supporting and providing development opportunities  
Monitoring and evaluating WOW experiences in every year group, each half term  
Ensuring that each class £600 budget for WOW days and experiences is spent appropriately  
Monitoring basic skills

**Teaching and Learning:**

- All Staff use question based pretest as a starting point for their topic. Every year group has relevant topics that they will cover across the year. This is built on a year group specific programme shared with all members of staff and accessible on the staff server
- The overarching topic has been decided, based on the New Curriculum. Each teacher will then decide on key questions.
- The key questions are designed to consider the context of our children and what interests and motivates them.
- Staff discusses the children's prior learning to find out what the children already know and if they have any misconceptions.
- A starting point is carefully considered to ensure the children will be hooked and WOW factors at the outset and are included throughout the topic to ensure children stay focused, interested and on task.
- Some year groups, when appropriate, work collaboratively to enhance their learning experiences.
- WOW factors create real experiences for the children to explore further.
- Staff members will ensure that non-negotiables are taught during Literacy and Mathematic lessons. These skills include Creative Thinking, Information Processing, Enquiring, Reasoning and Evaluating – see below. They are then applied to other subjects across the curriculum.
- Children use their questioning skills to develop the topic further and enhance their own learning.

**Creative thinking:** Generating ideas, developing ideas, hypothesising, applying imagination and seeking innovative alternatives

**Information Processing:** Finding relevant information, sorting/classifying/ sequencing information, comparing/contrasting, identifying

**Enquiry:** Asking questions, defining questions for enquiry, planning research, predicting outcomes, anticipating consequences and drawing conclusions.

**Reasoning:** Giving reasons for opinions/actions, inferring, making deductions, making informed judgments/decisions and using precise language to reason.

**Evaluation:** Developing evaluation criteria, applying evaluation criteria and judging the value of information and ideas.

Teaching staff will ensure that within a planned humanities lesson:

- Challenge, independence and experiential learning
- A combination of teaching styles to suit the needs of all learners
- Key vocabulary, learning outcomes, success criteria, reference to key skills are shared with the children
- Differentiation is evident and support is targeted

Planning:

Humanities include new National Curriculum 2014 subjects History, Geography, Design Technology and Art. At Holy Trinity C of E Primary School, we devise our own objectives based on the requirements of the new curriculum. A rolling two year programme of coverage is followed.

We carry out curriculum planning in humanities in three phases: long term, medium term and short term. Medium term plans define what we will teach and ensure an appropriate balance and distribution of work across each term in relation to year group humanities questions.

We plan activities in History, Geography, DT and Art so that they build upon the prior learning of the children. While we give children of all abilities opportunities to develop their skills, knowledge and understanding, we also build planned progression into the scheme of work, so there is an increasing challenge for the children as they move up through school.

We plan 'key skills' into each lesson and ensure that at least one key skill is included per lesson.

Assessment:

Staff assess children's work in humanities by observing them working in lessons. In addition, marking and feedback will also be used as a key assessment tool. Teachers record the progress made by children against the learning objective for their lessons. Progress is tracked against year group objectives. At the end of each academic year, children will be judged to be working towards, working at age related expectations or exceeding. A comment is made against national expectations and is reported to parents annually.

The subject leader will track 'non – negotiable' skills which include Creative Thinking, Information Processing, Enquiring, Reasoning and Evaluating. These will be tracked through examples of planning, evidence in children's books and observations.

Governors:

There is a named governor linked to humanities who plays a key role in monitoring and evaluating humanities across the school through discussions each term the subject leader.

Future developments:

- To monitor planning, assessment and the good use of questions
- To ensure evidence is continually collected and shared on the staff server
- To ensure each group will attend educational visits and have a school visitor every Term
- To update tracking of humanities creating an electronic method of tracking