Summary of GSIS Curriculum Intent

Our pupils come to us from a very wide range of pre-school/nursery and home experiences, with varied self-help skills, motor skills, language skills and cultural capital. In recent months, we have welcomed a significant number of children who are new to English, and to the UK school system, including an increasing number of children who are refugees. The number of children entitled to Pupil Premium funding, has increased from 14% in May 2019, to 25% in May 2022.

Our Curriculum Intent prioritises the following:

Language Development

We have an exceptionally rich language experience in our school, with some children who are articulate with a wide vocabulary, some skilled bilingual speakers, and others who are very new to English. All children need to develop the language skills and vocabulary, in order to express themselves in school, communicate with their peers and adults and access the curriculum. We give priority to assessing and developing speech and language skills, including the building of a rich vocabulary, with a learning environment that promotes language development and interventions to support children who need additional help.

Learning Behaviours

All children need to have secure self-help skills, leading to them being active learners able to make decisions for themselves and manage their own needs. We structure our curriculum to have a focus on the core learning behaviours of independence, co-operation, inventiveness, resilience and reflection.

Physical Activity

An active lifestyle can boost good mental health, and can develop the motor skills which will support the children's recorded work. We ensure that our curriculum and environment enable the development of physical skills, including fine and gross motor skills, core strength, hand and upper body strength.

Cultural Capital

All children need to have access to the experiences that will enrich their understanding, put their learning in context and reflect their rich and diverse cultural backgrounds. We aim to enrich the cultural capital of our pupils through skilled creative arts teaching and a programme of visits and experiences that enable children to make connections in their learning, reflecting the diversity of our school community.

Summary of GSIS History Curriculum Intent

Our children will develop their knowledge and skills through curriculum planning based on the requirements of the National Curriculum for History. Planning is carefully designed to be coherent and accessible, to enable children to make clear links with, and build on, prior learning and life experiences. We aim for our children to begin to gain a good mental picture of significant events and times in the past and why key events happened.

They develop knowledge and understanding of significant people, cultures, environments and places from the past. They begin to develop an understanding of the impact people have had on our local environment and the wider world.

Language Development

We aim for our children to talk confidently about history with their peers. We are ambitious in the vocabulary we teach them. We teach key vocabulary, as outlined on medium term planning. This will be revisited and built upon in subsequent topics. The children develop their understanding of the meanings of core vocabulary in context, in order to develop both substantive and disciplinary knowledge.

Learning Behaviours

We aim to foster our children's intrinsic interest in, and enthusiasm for learning in History. We understand that our infant children love making connections and talking about significant events in their own lives, past and present, that can relate to significant events and people from the past. Our children show excitement about sharing their own stories. We recognise that this engagement fosters positive learning behaviours about stories from history.

We know that the children enjoy having the opportunity to share and collaborate through exploring paintings, photographs and artefacts from the past such as old local maps and toys; talking about important historical places and landmarks they have visited and sharing information about significant people in the news.

We will actively promote positive learning behaviours through including our animal mascots in medium term planning.

Physical Activity

The children are active learners in history; they explore the local environment around Garden Suburb and other areas of London, they role play significant events through drama, explore significant artefacts, and make their own; they observe and collect data on field trips through drawing and taking photos.

We aim to foster practical engagement throughout the curriculum, because we know this enables our children to make good mental pictures of what history looks like and how things have changed over time. This helps them to build new knowledge on existing knowledge.

Cultural Capital

We recognise that our children come with diverse experiences of the world, and the local area they live in. Our curriculum design in history recognises and builds on this. History needs to be relevant to, and have resonance with our children. They need to begin to develop their understanding of why the world around them is like it is, how and why it has changed over time, and how we know about it. We also want the children to learn about a diverse range of significant people from different cultural backgrounds in history. We ensure our children have opportunities

to visit our rich and diverse local area, and further afield. They experience workshops and visitors in school, such as the Great Fire of London and old toy workshop, or visit places of historical interest such as the RAF museum, Kenwood House and the Southbank on the Thames for a river boat cruise. The children will learn about the lives of significant people, in their history lessons, as part of Black History and throughout the year in subjects such as Art and English.

Creative Curriculum Design and Progression

Our curriculum, based on the Early Years Foundation Stage Curriculum and The National Curriculum for Key Stage 1, provides children with a rich variety of creative, practical and stimulating learning experiences both inside and outside the classroom, enabling each child to access learning appropriate to their age and stage of development. Our children are given strong and creative teaching across the whole curriculum, with catch-up programmes and interventions for those children who need additional help. Topic based thematic links.

Creative Curriculum Design and Progression

Planning is carefully designed to be creative, coherent and accessible to the age groups of our children. This enables children to make clear links with, and build on, prior learning experiences, and to accumulate sufficient knowledge for future learning. The history units of work are intertwined with geography, enabling the children to locate places and provide contextual knowledge for how places have changed over time, and why. The humanities planning in turn, links to an overarching topic that helps the children make links between History, Geography and other curriculum areas.

Units are well-matched to meet the context of the children and have clear end points, supporting teachers to make explicit what is needed for pupils to achieve outcomes. Each lesson is deliberately constructed and resourced to ensure 'in-built' progression of knowledge and skills. Visual sources and artefacts are used to support the children to talk, make connections with what they know already and remember their learning.

Opportunities to create and build on school made, collaborative timelines support the children to develop their sense of chronology. Exploring different sources supports the children to develop their understanding about how we know about what happened in the past, and how different sources give different information. This purposeful approach develops curiosity and higher order thinking and is designed and delivered to enable pupils to transfer key knowledge to long-term memory.

If you were to walk into a History lesson at Garden Suburb Infant School you would see:

- All children engaged and enthusiastic to gain historical knowledge.
- Children who can work independently, and are also consistently co-operative; they take turns to discuss their learning, share and build on each other's ideas.
- Children using subject specific vocabulary, appropriate to their age and stage of development, with understanding and confidence, to talk about different aspects of the topic.
- A sharp focus on reading and topic vocabulary embedded in lessons.
- Teachers demonstrating secure subject knowledge, teaching lessons which are explicitly adapted to be both ambitious and to meet the needs of pupils with Special Educational Needs.
- Teachers and support staff presenting information clearly, and encouraging appropriate discussion to learn key knowledge and concepts.
- Teachers and support staff helping children embed and use knowledge, not just memorise disconnected facts.
- A powerful learning environment, including practical and visual resources and displays which reflect their learning.
- Lessons which sometimes take the children outside of the classroom.