

St Margaret's C of E Primary School



Discover Policy

Reviewer: Natalie Selley

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1. INTENT

At St Margaret's we create a classroom environment where children are supported to thrive and set consistently high expectations so that all children develop the knowledge, curiosity and confidence to thrive as young historians. Our intent is to nurture learners who understand the past, think critically about evidence and recognise their own potential to shape the future.

Our Discover curriculum aligns closely with our whole-school vision that every child is created to shine. Children develop a coherent understanding of the past and the wider world through rich enquiry and critical thinking. By engaging with the past, pupils learn to think critically, appreciate diversity, and understand their place in the world.

2. IMPLEMENTATION

Roles, Responsibilities and Resources

The subject leader oversees and manages Discover. They have an overview of how the Discover curriculum is taught across the school, advise and support staff with their understanding whilst ensuring that the subject is sufficiently resourced. They are responsible for monitoring standards in the subject, both with the children's learning and knowledge and how the subject is taught in the classroom, keeping up to date with both National and County priorities.

Organisation

Discover is taught as a dedicated termly focus during the Spring term, ensuring that all pupils experience a coherent and immersive sequence of learning. Across the school, every class receives two hours of high-quality teaching each week, delivered through well-structured lessons that build knowledge progressively and develop strong enquiry skills.

Planning and content

Planning in Discover is structured to ensure coherence, progression, and high expectations across the school. In the Early Years, children follow the EYFS framework, developing early historical awareness through exploration in line with our EYFS policy. From Year 1 onwards, Discover is taught in accordance with the National Curriculum aims, ensuring that knowledge and skills build progressively across year groups. Carefully sequenced medium-term plans have been devised to outline key content, vocabulary, enquiry questions and assessment opportunities, ensuring consistency and clarity in what pupils learn. This structured approach enables all children to develop secure historical understanding and shine as confident young historians.

Links with other subjects

Discover is deliberately connected to wider areas of the curriculum so that pupils experience rich, meaningful learning. Each year group carefully links their big question to their shine statement, ensuring that historical learning reflects the school's values and supports pupils in understanding how they are created to shine. These cross-curricular connections immerse pupils fully in their learning, deepen understanding and strengthen the coherence of the curriculum.

Knowledge and skills

Our Discover curriculum is designed to build secure, progressively sequenced knowledge and skills from KS1 through KS2, enabling every child to shine as a confident young historian. In Key Stage 1, pupils develop foundational knowledge of significant people, events, and places and begin to use simple historical vocabulary, sequence events chronologically and recognise differences between past and present. In Key Stage 2, this knowledge deepens as children study British, local, and world history in greater breadth and complexity. This structured progression ensures that all children build strong historical understanding and are challenged to think critically.

Wider opportunities

Discover is strengthened through year group trips, visits and enrichment experiences that complement and deepen pupils' learning. These visits allow children to engage with the past in meaningful, hands-on ways.

Inclusion and extension

We ensure Discover is accessible to all learners by providing carefully tailored support for pupils with SEND, including adapted resources, scaffolded tasks, pre-teaching of key vocabulary, visual supports and targeted adult guidance. We stretch pupils by providing opportunities for deeper historical thinking and greater independence. Challenge is built into lessons through high-level enquiry questions that require pupils to analyse causes, consequences, change and continuity.

Health and Safety

Discover is taught safely by ensuring all activities, resources, and visits are risk-assessed and supervised so that pupils can explore the past confidently and responsibly.

3. IMPACT

Monitoring and evaluation

The subject leaders, along with the SLT, are responsible for monitoring the standards of Discover across the school by looking at planning, children's books, learning walks and observations of classroom practice.

Reporting to parents and governors

All teachers are required to discuss the children's progress in Discover with parents as part of the consultation evenings (twice a year) and through an annual report which outlines the children's effort and attainment.

Subject leaders are required to give feedback to the curriculum governors every year.