



**KILGARVAN CENTRAL SCHOOL**

**HISTORY**

**WHOLE SCHOOL PLAN**

## ■ Introductory Statement and Rationale

### (a) Introductory Statement

We aim through this plan, drawn up in accordance with the history curriculum, to set out our approaches to the teaching and learning of history. It will form the basis for teachers long and short term planning. It will also inform new and temporary teachers of the approaches and methodologies used in our school. The plan was drafted in year 2017 after a process of consultation within the staff. All teachers were involved.

### (b) Rationale

We recognise History as an integral element of Social, Environmental and Scientific education. We recognise the distinct role History has to play in enabling the child to explore and understand the natural, human, social and cultural environments in which he/she lives. We hope that historical education in our school will enable the child to investigate and examine critically significant events in their own immediate past, the past of their families and local communities and the histories of people in Ireland and other parts of the world. We believe that History develops an understanding of the actions, beliefs and motivations of people in the past and is fundamental to an informed appreciation of contemporary society and environments. We view history as having a distinct but complementary role together with geography and science within SESE and as a contributor to the wider child centred curriculum.

## ■ Vision and Aims

### (a) Vision :

We, the staff of Kilgarvan Central School, in consultation with the Board of Management and the parents hope to instil in the children a sense of self worth and self esteem and a respect for themselves and others. We seek to develop a sense of responsibility for themselves and for the environment. We hope that our pupils will become valuable members of the community.

It is the ethos of our school to enable each and every child to reach his/ her full potential. We are aware of the contribution SESE makes to the harmonious development of the child. We hope that by creating opportunities for children to experience a rounded historical education that is not exclusively focused on the transmission of a body of knowledge but that allows children to work as historians, children will help children to understand more fully the world in which they live, how events and personalities have shaped the home, locality and wider environments in which they exist. It is our vision that history in our school will enable children to understand the present by exploring the past before they begin to look towards the future.

### (b) Aims

We endorse the aims of the SESE History curriculum as outlined on Page 12 of the SESE History Curriculum Statement.

- To develop an interest in and curiosity about the past.
- To make the child aware of the lives of women, men and children in the past and how people and events had an impact on each other.
- To develop an understanding of the concepts of change and continuity.
- To provide for the acquisition of concepts and skills associated with sequence, time and chronology, appropriate to the developmental stages of the child.
- To allow the child to encounter and use a range of historical evidence systematically and critically.
- To provide opportunities for the child to communicate historical findings and interpretations in a variety of ways.
- To foster sensitivity to the impact of conservation and change within local and wider environments.
- To help the child recognise and examine the influences of the past on the attitudes and behaviour of people today.
- To encourage children to recognise how past and present actions, events and materials may become historically significant.
- To foster a willingness to explore personal attitudes and values and to promote an openness to the possibility of changing one's own point of view.
- To enable the child to acquire a balanced appreciation of cultural and historical inheritances from local, national and global contexts
- We will consider developing a history trail in our locality.
- We also intend to incorporate the use of timelines into our teaching of history at all class levels.

## ■ Curriculum Planning

### 1. Strands and Strand Units

Each teacher is familiar with the strands, strand units and content objectives for his/ her relevant class level and indeed for each other's class levels. We feel this is important in order to ensure a coherent programme throughout the school.

Classes from Junior/ Senior infants to First /Second class will work very closely. At these levels history will be delivered through integrated themes in the context of the other SESE subjects as much as possible as well as through integration with the SPHE curriculum and other curricular areas, therefore making the learning experience more holistic and meaningful for the child.

#### Infant Classes: Pages 19 -20 Curriculum

- We are aware that the content in history for the infant classes is confined to two strands

- Myself and My Family
- Story

Each of these strands will be covered.

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### **First and Second Classes : Pages 27 – 31 Curriculum**

**-We understand that the three strands that comprise the content of the History Curriculum at this level must be covered:**

- **Myself and my Family**
- **Change and Continuity**
- **Story**

**We endorse the emphasis this curriculum places on the exploration of personal and family history at this level and are conscious of the sensitivities some aspects of these topics will require.**

### **Third and Fourth Classes: Pages 42-50 Curriculum**

**We are familiar with the Strands that comprise the curriculum for Third/Fourth classes.**

- **Local studies**
- **Story**
- **Early People and ancient societies.**
- **Life, society, work and culture in the past.**
- **Continuity and change over time.**

**We are aware of the requirements of the ‘menu curriculum’ as outlined in the Curriculum Statement regarding the number of Strand Units from each Strand that must be covered in each school year. We have chosen the correct number of Strand Units in consultation with the teachers of Fifth/Sixth classes in order to ensure coverage of most aspects of the curriculum before the children leave sixth class. We have chosen two strand units from each of these four stands**

***See our appendix with the choices we have made for 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> classes with regard to the menu curriculum.***

**In total we have selected 8 strand units for each class level**

**From the strand entitled “Story “, we have selected stories that will link in with the strand units chosen above.**

### **Fifth and Sixth Classes:**

**We are aware of the Strands that comprise the History Curriculum for Fifth/ Sixth classes:**

- **Local studies**
- **Story**
- **Early people and ancient societies**
- **Life, society, work and culture in the past**
- **Continuity and change over time**
- **Eras of change and conflict**
- **Politics, conflict and society**

We are aware of the requirements of the ‘menu curriculum’ as outlined in the Curriculum Statement regarding the number of Strand Units from each Strand that must be covered in each school year. We have chosen the correct number of Strand Units in consultation with the teachers of Third / Fourth classes in order to ensure coverage of most aspects of the curriculum before the children leave sixth class. We have chosen two strand units from each of these five strands:

*See our appendix with the choices we have made for 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> classes with regard to the menu curriculum.*

In total we will cover 11 strand units with each class level along with a selection of stories from the “Story” strand which are relevant to these strand units.

In choosing the Strand Units for 3<sup>rd</sup> to 6<sup>th</sup> classes, we are conscious of the spiral approach recommended in this curriculum, in which some aspects of the past may be explored in increasing detail at a number of levels.

We recognise that the curriculum recommends that in each year one strand unit in local history and one strand unit in national or world history is studied in more depth over a longer period and this has been taken on board in the development of our yearly plans from 3<sup>rd</sup> to 6<sup>th</sup> classes.

-We understand that a strict adherence to a chronological treatment of Strand Units is not recommended in this curriculum because of the constraints this would impose on curricular planning. We are aware that the development of children’s chronological understanding can be fostered through the use of timelines and will consider using timelines at all levels.

At all class levels we will strive to ensure a balance between the development of skills and the acquisition of knowledge in our teaching of history.

## **2. Skills and concepts Development.**

As outlined in our vision for history in our school we are not solely concerned with the transmission of a body of knowledge about the past, but also with ensuring children experience something of the way in which the historian goes about his/ her work. Each teacher is aware that the curriculum provides for the development of a growing range of historical skills and concepts. Each teacher is aware of the aspects of Working as a Historian that apply at each class level.

**Infant Classes: Page 18 Curriculum**

We are aware that the skills and concepts developed by the children as they work as historians are :

- Time and Chronology
- Using Evidence
- Communication

**At Infant level strategies we will use to develop the child's skills to work as a young historian will include:**

- **Sequencing activities**
  - **Use of simple timelines**
  - **Using simple evidence: artefacts from own personal past**
  - **Allowing children opportunities to communicate an awareness of stories about the past in a variety of ways**
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### **First and Second Classes : Page 26 Curriculum**

**- We are aware that the following skills and concepts will be developed by the children as they are provided with opportunities to engage with the History Curriculum and to work as historians:**

- **Time and Chronology**
- **Change and Continuity**
- **Cause and Effect**
- **Using Evidence**
- **Synthesis and Communication**
- **Empathy**

**Strategies we will use to develop the child's ability to work as a young historian at this level will include:**

- **Sequencing activities**
- **Exploring instances of change and continuity in personal life, family and immediate local environment: looking at features which have changed or remained unchanged**
- **Through examining the actions of a character in a story discuss the reasons for change and the effects of change.**
- **Use of simple historical evidence**
- **Allowing children opportunities to communicate an awareness of stories, people and events from the past in a variety of the past.**

### **Third/Fourth Classes: Page 40 Curriculum**

**We are aware that children will continue to develop these skills and concepts through engagement with the History Curriculum and by having the opportunity to Work as Historians:**

- **Time and chronology**
- **Change and continuity**
- **Cause and Effect**
- **Using evidence**
- **Synthesis and communication**
- **Empathy**

**Strategies we will use to develop the child's abilities to work as a young historian at this level will include:**

- **Using timelines for children to record information about people and events**

- Examining and using a wider range of historical evidence
  - Encouraging children to ask questions about a piece of evidence
  - Enabling children to summarise information and make deductions from a single source of evidence
  - Providing opportunities for children to use evidence and imagination to reconstruct elements of the past and communicate this understanding in a variety of ways.
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### **Fifth and Sixth Classes: Page 60 Curriculum**

We are aware of the skills and concepts that children in 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> classes will continue to develop through engagement with the History Curriculum and by having the opportunity to Work as Historians:

- Time and chronology
- Change and continuity
- Cause and Effect
- Using evidence
- Synthesis and communication
- Empathy

Strategies we will use to develop children's skills to work as young historians will include:

- Use of timelines
- Enable children to use words, phrases and conventions associated with the recording of dates and time, such as BC, AD, Stone Age, early Christian Ireland etc
- Allow children to examine and use critically a wide range of historical evidence
- Enable children to develop some skills in the location and selection of evidence
- Encourage children to ask questions about a piece of evidence
- Encourage children to compare accounts of a person or event from two different sources
- Encourage children to use imagination and evidence to reconstruct the past in a variety of ways

**All teachers will endeavour to include a balance between the development of these skills and the acquisition of knowledge when designing their short and long term planning and when implementing it in the classroom**

### **3. Approaches and Methodologies**

Our History Curriculum asserts that one of the keys to successful history teaching is the use of a broad range of classroom approaches and methodologies. We plan to use the key methodologies of the primary school curriculum in the teaching of History.

- Active learning
- Use of the environment
- Talk and discussion
- Cooperative learning
- Problem solving
- Developing skills through content

**In addition to this we are aware of the variety of approaches and methodologies outlined as particularly suited to History and will endeavour to employ the following methodologies:**

- **Story**

**We intend to carry out an audit of suitable stories and fiction books from our library for use in our History classes.**

**We will consult pgs 65-71 of the Teacher Guidelines for guidance in this methodology.**

- **Personal and family history**

**This methodology is an ideal starting point for exploring the past especially with our younger classes. Parents, grandparents and other family members will be encouraged to share family history with our children, where appropriate.**

**We will consult pgs 72 - 75 of the Teacher Guidelines for guidance in this methodology.**

- **Using Artefacts**

**We will endeavour to gather a selection of artefacts, over the course of the school year, for using evidence as a methodology.**

**We will consult pgs 81 - 86 of the Teacher Guidelines for guidance in this methodology.**

- **Drama and role play**

**Activities such as hot seating, conscience alley, and drama through story are possible ways in which children will empathise with people of the past and recreate human experience.**

**We will consult pgs 109 - 113 of the Teacher Guidelines for guidance in this methodology.**

- **Using pictures and photographs**

**We will use historical photographs of our locality and also study a range of photos from famous collections, famous paintings and calendars. We have some photographs of the locality which we will use for this purpose.**

**Collections such as the Lawrence Collection ([www.nli.ie](http://www.nli.ie)) will be ideal to use for activities around Change and Continuity.**

**We will consult pages 87 - 98 of the Teacher Guidelines for guidance in this methodology.**

- **Use of the environment**

**We have identified some features in the local community that can be used as a resource for our teaching of history :**

- **Site of the Battle of Callan in 1261**
- **MacCaura's Grave**
- **Ruins of Ardtully House (Castle)**
- **Kilgarvan Railway**

- St. Patrick's Church
- Old National Schools – Morley's Bridge, Drinagh, Shandrum, Kilgarvan and Coolnoohill
- Gurteen Stone Circle
- St. Peter and Paul's Well
- Old shops in Kilgarvan Village
- The Motor Museum
- The New Playground
- The Graveyards (Old and New)
- The Old Post Office
- Old Dance Hall in Incheese
- School Building and Grounds
- Michael J Quill Centre

We will consult pages 99 - 103 of the Teacher Guidelines for guidance in this methodology.

We will also refer to the Geography Teacher Guidelines pages 74- 78 in this regard.

- **Oral evidence**

We aim to try and make incidents and aspects of the past real for the children through the use of this methodology. Classes will experience visits from older people in the locality and children will have opportunity to interview older people from time to time.

We will consult pages 77 - 80 of the Teacher Guidelines for guidance in this methodology.

- **Documentary evidence**

We intend to gather old newspapers, birthday cards, postcards, magazines, receipts, match programmes, advertisements for lessons relating to myself, my home and my school.

Sensitivity to children's personal circumstances will be exercised and careful thought given to the selection of these documents.

We will consult pages 104 - 108 of the Teacher Guidelines for guidance in this methodology.

- **Use of ICT**

We have access to the internet in our school to enhance our teaching of History where possible

We have prioritised the following methodologies for development over the next 2 years:

1. Use of the local environment
2. Use of artefacts

## **4. Linkage and Integration**

- **Linkage:**

In order to make learning more meaningful for the child and to ensure the simultaneous development of historical skills and to provide for the application of these skills teachers will explore possibilities for linkage across the History curriculum and will consider and note such opportunities in their classroom planning. This is particularly evident in our choice of stories which link in with the selected strand units. Line of Development studies chosen from the strand “Change and Continuity over time” in 3<sup>rd</sup> – 6<sup>th</sup> classes will also reflect linkage across the strand units which we have selected.

- **Integration:**

We agree with the assertion made in the Curriculum Statement page 9 that while history makes an important and distinctive contribution to the development of the child, historical education complements the growth of the child’s geographical and scientific learning. With this in mind, we will ensure to look for opportunities where by the elements from the history and science and geography curricula may be explore concurrently. Using systematically planned integrated themes or topics will be one way we would hope to achieve this.

We are conscious not only to seek out opportunities to integrate content, but also to be mindful of opportunities for transferral and application of skills.

We also acknowledge the scope that exists to integrate history with other subject areas .

- Oral Language
- Literacy
- Mathematics
- Visual Arts
- Drama
- SPHE
- Gaeilge

## **6. Assessment**

As in all subject areas Assessment is an integral part of the teaching and learning of SESE history.

We as a staff have a common understanding of its purpose and the ways in which the progress of children in history will be assessed, documented and reported.

Assessment in history will fulfil the following roles :

- A diagnostic role – to identify areas of difficulty in order to respond to the needs of the child
- A summative role- to establish the outcomes of learning after completing a unit of work. In this way assessment can provide the basis for reporting to and communicating with parents and others.
- An evaluative role – to assist teachers in assessing their own practice, methodologies , approaches and resources.

**We recognise that assessment techniques used in history must seek to assess progress in**

- a) Children's knowledge of the past**
- b) Children's ability to use historical skills**
- c) Children's development of attitudes**

**The assessment tools we will use will range from the informal means to the more structured approaches.**

**Methods we will use are :**

- Teacher observation of the child's learning as the history curriculum is being implemented.**
- Teacher designed tasks and tests at the end of units of work.**
- Work samples e.g. finished projects and artefact investigations.**

**These records will inform the teacher of the progress of the child, the effectiveness of teaching methodologies employed and will also inform future planning. The assessment records will form the basis for reporting and discussing the child's progress. This information will be relayed at Parent Teacher Meetings.**

## **7. Children with Different Needs**

**As previously stated we are cognisant of the distinct role history can play in the harmonious development of each and every child. As such we will do our best to ensure that all children have the opportunity to experience a rounded historical education.**

**In the same way as we endeavour to provide for individual difference in every curricular area, we will also strive to make the history curriculum accessible to as many children as possible.**

**In order to do this we will consider:**

- Using a mixture of whole class teaching and focused group work**
- Choosing more accessible or more demanding pieces of evidence for different children.**
- Use a range of questions spanning from simple recall to the more complex and analytical**
- Planning for the use of a wide range of communication skills**
- The exceptional child will be encouraged to undertake additional research and record their findings in a variety of ways**
- Content, methods of recording and desired learning outcomes will be differentiated for children with general learning difficulties.**

**The 'NCCA Draft Guidelines for Teachers of Students with General Learning Disabilities' are available for teachers and will be consulted where appropriate.**

## **8. Equality of Participation and Access**

- Equal opportunity will be given to boys and girls to experience all strands and to participate in all class activities.
- Provision for children with physical difficulties will be made so that they can access the history curriculum, should the need arise.
- Children whose first language is not English will be supported in accessing the history curriculum also.
- Our history classes will place an emphasis on the lives of ordinary women, men and children of the past as is recommended in the curriculum.
- We will consider in our teaching of History the contribution made by women in the past as well as men.
- At all class levels we include the lives of men women and children from different social , cultural , ethnic and religious backgrounds.  
We will consult the Intercultural Guidelines ( NCCA ) for guidance here, if necessary.

## **■ Organisational Planning**

### **9. Timetable**

In keeping with the recommendations in the Primary School Curriculum Introduction (page 70) a minimum of two and quarter hours per week is devoted to SESE in infant classes and a minimum of three hours per week for classes 1<sup>st</sup> to 6<sup>th</sup>.

On occasion, time will be blocked as appropriate. This might occur when:

- using a thematic approach
- working on a project
- exploring the local environment i.e. on a trail or fieldwork activity

Teachers will consider the use of discretionary curriculum time which is 2 hours, for SESE when appropriate.

### **10. Resources and ICT**

We have identified features in the local environment (see section 3 of this plan) and will use this list of features as a resource.

We will use textbooks as a resource in our teaching of History

We intend to begin gathering artefacts for the children to examine.

We will make use of the “Archaeology in the Classroom” pack to enhance the delivery of history in our school.

We have DVDs/videos that can support the strand units been taught.

We have access to the internet so we can use the web as a historical resource and we have identified some useful websites

## **11. Health and Safety**

*(Refer to school's Health & Safety Policy and Preparing for fieldwork)*

- Teachers will consult the principal whenever it is proposed to engage children in History activities in the environment. The schools policy on out of classroom activities will be consulted and provision made for adult help suitable clothing, footwear, insurance and transport.
- Before use in the classroom artefacts will be examined by the teacher and checked for potential danger ie; sharp edges / rust / danger. Artefacts with small parts will not be used with infants.

## **12. Individual Teachers' Planning and Reporting**

- Teachers will consult this whole school plan and the curriculum documents for History when they are drawing up their long and short term plans.
- Each teacher will have a long term plan for the year drawn up and this plan will be tailored according to the individual needs of their own classes.
- From infants to second class all strands and strand units will be covered every year as outlined in the documents. Each content objective within each strand unit will be covered.
- In third and fourth classes two strand units will be selected from each strand along with a selection of stories. We will ensure that two of these strand units chosen will be in depth studies each year. One of these in depth studies will have a local focus and the other will have a national/international focus.
- In fifth and sixth class we will select two strand units from each strand with the exception of 'Life, society, work and culture in the past' from which we will only select one strand unit. We will ensure that two of these strand units chosen will be in depth studies each year. One of these in depth studies will have a local focus and the other will have a national/international focus. We will also cover a selection of stories for fifth and sixth.
- Where it is meaningful and suitable history will be taught in a thematic way to integrate with the other SESE subjects
- Cuntas Míósúil will assist in recording work covered in evaluating progress in history and in informing future teaching
- Parents are informed of children's progress in history at parent teacher meetings.

## **13. Staff Development**

- Teachers will have access to reference books, resource materials and websites dealing with history
- Staff will be encouraged to try out new approaches and methodologies
- Individual teachers will be responsible for keeping resource material up to date and will arrange for opportunities for resources to be purchased
- Teachers will be encouraged to attend in service workshops and courses / summer courses in history. They will upskill other staff members in what they have learned.
- Our school has a culture where teachers share their expertise, good experience and practice with others.

#### **14. Parental Involvement**

- We will encourage parents to talk to their children about their personal and family history, (where this is appropriate) this will also involve sourcing family photographs, lending artefacts for display and taking children to see historic places.
- Parents and grandparents will be encouraged to come into the school and participate in history trails and to share their historical experiences with the children
- Parents from distant lands will be encouraged to share their heritage with the rest of the school, where appropriate

#### **15. Community Links**

- People in the local community who have an interest and a knowledge in its history will be invited to speak with the children
- The local library in Kenmare will be a source of historical knowledge for the children ie; documentary evidence, maps.
- The work of some national agencies relates to aspects of the history programme and we may consider visits by speakers from these organisations.
- Children will be brought on visits to different places of local interest as they progress through the primary school. These have been listed in Section 3.

## **Success Criteria**

We will review this whole school plan under the following headings

- Are individual teachers preparing planning and teaching according to this plan?  
Are we using a variety of methodologies?
- How are the children's historical skills progressing?
- How well is historical knowledge being learned by the children?
- Are we adhering to the menu curriculum in history as outlined in this plan?
- Are we assessing our history as outlined in the plan?
- Have we acquired the resources we needed?

Ways of assessing this plan will be

- Revisiting the plan as a staff
- Teacher feedback
- Parental feedback
- Children's feedback
- Inspectors reports and suggestions

## **■ Implementation**

### **(a) Roles and Responsibilities**

The plan will be supported, developed and implemented by all staff members.

## **■ Review**

- It will be necessary to review this plan on a regular basis to ensure optimum implementation of the history curriculum. We aim to review this plan in September 2024.
- On this date we will refer to the tasks here in our action plan and check that they have been completed in accordance with the agreed timeframe.
  - Those involved in the review will be all teachers on the staff.

## **■ Ratification and Communication**

This plan was ratified by the Board of Management on \_\_\_\_\_

Signed : \_\_\_\_\_  
(Chairperson, Board of Management)

This plan will be communicated to all relevant parties.

