



The
ORATORY
RC PRIMARY
School

What do we want our Oratorian historians to know, understand and be able to do before they leave Year 6?



1. A world existed before they and those around them were born – some things occurring many years ago before there were ways of writing about the past. Human time is only a small part of time.
2. The past can be described in different ways – dates, period labels, divisions such as decade, century etc.
3. The past was different from today: some things have changed (slowly or quickly) but some things are the same.
4. Change does not always mean progress. There can be 'bad/negative' changes. There are differences between change, progress and development.
5. People in the past had feelings and emotions and had reasons for their actions.
6. It is not always easy to work out why things happened and why people did or thought things.
 7. Reasons and events usually lead to results (sometimes more than one) but things did not always turn out as planned.
8. People in the past did not know the same as we do today but they were not really more stupid. When things happened, it was often confusing and uncertain for people and they did not know how things would turn out.
9. We can put together a story/account about the past in different ways. It can be different if we use different information or have views about what is important. This does not mean that one version is right and another wrong.
10. Not all history has been fair to all people and groups. Sometimes this is deliberate and at other times accidental.
11. We find out about the past from different sorts of information/sources such as written, artefacts and pictures. Some parts of history have many sources but others have very few.
12. Different people help put together what happened in the past, such as historians, archaeologists, film makers, museum curators.
13. Not all the sources from the past can be trusted. We always need to be careful when using any evidence from the past, e.g. it can be inaccurate, incomplete, unfair. With care, however, we can make some use of all information – it always tells us something about the past.
14. It is often better when we can find more than one piece of information/source for our topic.
15. There is a difference between a source and evidence. The source is the information but it is you or the historian who uses it as evidence in your own way to answer your questions. A good historian can ask many questions about the sources they use.
16. We never know everything that happened in the past so it means that we have to work out things that are likely to have happened and that means giving opinions and ideas rather than definite facts.
17. Because we need to tell a clear story, we need to choose which bits to use and this means deciding what is important. Not all information is equally important.
18. We should care about what past people did. We should try to understand them without necessarily agreeing with them. Much of our lives today is because of what people in the past have done.