



History Curriculum

Intent

At our school, we aim to provide a high-quality History curriculum that inspires pupils' curiosity about the past and helps them develop a coherent knowledge and understanding of Britain's history and that of the wider world. Through carefully planned learning opportunities, pupils gain an appreciation of how historical events and individuals have shaped the world we live in today.

Our History curriculum is designed to enable pupils to:

- Ask perceptive questions about the past.
- Think critically and develop informed opinions.
- Weigh historical evidence and evaluate different interpretations.
- Understand and use methods of historical enquiry.
- Develop a secure understanding of chronology and historical concepts such as change, continuity, cause and consequence, similarity and difference.
- Make meaningful connections between local, national and global history.

We use a two-year rolling programme, based around the Cornerstones curriculum, to ensure broad coverage of the National Curriculum whilst meeting the needs of our mixed-age classes. Learning begins in Reception with *Long Ago*, where children explore changes within living memory and key events from the past. As pupils progress through Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2, they build upon this foundation through increasingly complex historical studies including *Childhood*, *School Days*, *Magnificent Monarchs*, *Through the Ages*, *Ancient Civilisations*, *Dynamic Dynasties*, *Groundbreaking Greeks*, *Maafa* and *Britain at War*.

We are committed to providing an inclusive curriculum for all learners, including pupils with SEND. Through engaging enquiry-based learning, rich discussion, practical experiences and carefully adapted teaching, all pupils are supported to access and achieve success in History.

Developing historical vocabulary is a key priority. Subject-specific language is explicitly taught and revisited, enabling pupils to communicate their understanding confidently through discussion, reading and writing.

Implementation

History is taught throughout the school from Reception to Year 6 through a carefully sequenced curriculum that develops knowledge, skills and understanding over time.

Our curriculum is delivered through a two-year rolling programme using Cornerstones history projects:

Reception

- Long Ago

Key Stage 1

- Childhood
- School Days
- Magnificent Monarchs

Lower Key Stage 2

- Through the Ages
- Emperors and Empires
- Invasion
- Ancient Civilisations

Upper Key Stage 2

- Dynamic Dynasties

- Groundbreaking Greeks
- Maafa
- Britain at War

History lessons are delivered regularly throughout the year, ensuring pupils have sufficient opportunities to develop and apply their historical skills. Learning is structured to build progressively upon prior knowledge, allowing children to deepen their understanding of chronology, historical enquiry and historical concepts.

Teachers:

- Clearly model historical thinking and enquiry skills.
- Use questioning to deepen understanding and challenge thinking.
- Explicitly teach and revisit key historical vocabulary.
- Provide opportunities for discussion, debate and critical thinking.
- Adapt learning to meet the needs of all pupils.
- Use artefacts, photographs, primary and secondary sources, visits and enrichment experiences to bring history to life.

Pupils are encouraged to investigate historical questions, analyse evidence, compare civilisations and consider different viewpoints. Learning often begins by exploring what pupils already know and identifying questions they would like to answer. This enquiry-led approach develops curiosity and engagement.

Assessment is ongoing throughout lessons and includes:

- Retrieval activities and quizzes to revisit prior learning.
- Observation of pupil discussions and responses.
- Written outcomes and enquiry tasks.
- Self and peer assessment opportunities.

Assessment information is used to identify misconceptions, inform future planning and ensure that all pupils make progress.

Impact

The impact of our History curriculum is evident in pupils who are enthusiastic, knowledgeable and confident historians.

By the time pupils leave our school, they will:

- Have a secure understanding of key historical events, periods and civilisations studied throughout the curriculum.
- Understand how Britain has developed over time and how it relates to wider world history.
- Demonstrate a strong sense of chronology and be able to place significant events and periods in context.
- Use historical vocabulary accurately and confidently.
- Ask historical questions and use evidence to support their conclusions.
- Recognise similarities, differences, change and continuity across different periods of history.
- Understand that interpretations of the past may differ and be able to evaluate historical evidence.
- Make connections between local, national and global history.

Through regular retrieval practice and opportunities to revisit prior learning, pupils retain key historical knowledge and skills over time. Pupil voice, work scrutiny and assessment outcomes demonstrate that children are engaged learners who enjoy history and appreciate its relevance in understanding both the past and present.

Ultimately, our History curriculum equips pupils with the knowledge, skills and curiosity to become informed citizens who understand the complexity of the world around them and their place within it.