

Our Approach to History

Our Vision

We believe that every child should develop a deep understanding of the past and its impact on the world they live in today. Through our History curriculum, we inspire curiosity about people, events and societies, encouraging children to ask questions, investigate evidence and think critically about the world around them.

Using our carefully sequenced curriculum, pupils build a rich understanding of how societies have changed over time, exploring significant events, influential individuals and important civilisations. Through engaging historical enquiry, children develop the knowledge and skills needed to become thoughtful historians and responsible citizens.

Our Core Principles

At our school, History is:

- Ambitious, engaging and inclusive.
- Rooted in the exploration of people, events and societies.
- Designed to develop both historical knowledge and enquiry skills.
- Sequentially planned to build understanding over time.
- Focused on developing chronological understanding and historical awareness.
- A vehicle for developing critical thinking, curiosity and analytical skills.
- Accessible to all learners, enabling every child to achieve success.

What History Looks Like at Our School

Children:

- Explore significant historical events, periods and civilisations.
- Develop secure chronological understanding of the past.
- Investigate historical evidence and sources.
- Ask questions, analyse information and form conclusions.
- Compare different historical periods and societies.
- Discuss change, continuity, cause and consequence.
- Use historical vocabulary accurately and confidently.
- Reflect on how the past has shaped the modern world.
- Where possible gain real-life experiences of specific moments in history.

Curriculum Design

Our History curriculum follows a carefully sequenced progression model, ensuring that knowledge and skills are built systematically from EYFS through to Year 6.

Children develop understanding through the interconnected concepts of:

- Society and Community
- Exploration and Invasion
- Conflict and Disaster
- Power and Leadership
- Change and Continuity
- Chronology
- Historical Enquiry
- Interpretation and Evidence

Learning is organised through a spiral curriculum, allowing pupils to revisit key concepts, deepen understanding and make meaningful connections between different periods of history. Children develop their historical knowledge alongside the disciplinary skills of questioning, investigating, analysing and evaluating evidence.

Inclusion

We believe that History belongs to everyone.

Teaching is carefully adapted to ensure all children can access and enjoy historical learning. Through effective modelling, scaffolded support, adapted resources and rich discussion opportunities, all pupils are encouraged to engage with the past and develop confidence as historians.

We celebrate different perspectives and experiences, helping children to appreciate the diversity of human history and recognise that every learner can successfully contribute to historical enquiry.

Enrichment

History extends beyond classroom lessons through:

- Educational visits and historical experiences.
- Visitors and workshops that bring history to life.
- Cross-curricular links with geography, literacy, art and RE.
- Exploration of local history and heritage.
- Commemorations of significant historical events.
- Opportunities to investigate artefacts, sources and historical environments.

The Impact of Our Approach

Children leave our school with:

- A secure understanding of key historical events, people and periods.
- A strong sense of chronology and historical perspective.
- The ability to question, investigate and evaluate evidence critically.
- An understanding of how the past influences the present.
- Respect for different cultures, societies and experiences.

- Confidence in discussing and interpreting historical events.
- A lifelong curiosity about the world and its history.

History at Our School: "Understanding the Past, Shaping the Future"

By the time pupils leave our school, they will have experienced a broad, balanced and inspiring History curriculum. They will understand that history helps us make sense of the world around us, appreciate the diversity of human experience and learn from the successes and challenges of the past. They will possess the knowledge, skills and curiosity needed to continue exploring history beyond primary school.