

West Ashton CE Primary School



History Policy

Dated: January 2022

Date of review: January 2024

‘You will shine among them like stars in the sky.’

Philippians 2:15

Introduction

History is an essential part of the National Curriculum. It provides a means of exploring, appreciating and understanding the world in which we live and how it has evolved.

History is about developing an awareness of the past, through teaching about people, events and changes. Children should develop a chronologically secure knowledge and understanding of local, British and world history. Historical study is a process of enquiry. Using the evidence available to us, we can draw conclusions about what life was like in the past and gain a better understanding of the world today.

Intent

We believe history curriculum will fire children's curiosity about the past in Britain and the wider world. We want to encourage the children to think about how the past influences the present and to help the children develop a chronological framework for their knowledge of significant events and people.

We will:

- deliver a curriculum which arouses children's natural curiosity to discover what life was like in the past.
- we will seek to encourage children to pose questions for themselves about historical events and changes, and find the answer to these questions using a range of primary and secondary sources of information.
- develop a range of skills and abilities - particularly those related to finding out about the past, explaining what happened and what people then and now think about what happened.

National Curriculum

In history in Key Stage 1, children will be taught about:

- changes within living memory. Where appropriate, these should be used to reveal aspects of change in national life.
- events beyond living memory that are significant nationally or globally
- the lives of significant individuals in the past who have contributed to national and international achievements. Some should be used to compare aspects of life in different periods.
- significant historical events, people and places in their own locality

In Key Stage 2, children will be taught about:

- changes in Britain from the Stone Age to the Iron Age
- the Roman Empire and its impact on Britain
- Britain's settlement by Anglo-Saxons and Scots
- The Viking and Anglo-Saxon struggle for the Kingdom of England
- a local history study
- a study of an aspect or theme in British history that extends pupils' chronological knowledge beyond 1066, e.g. a significant turning point in British History such as the Battle of Britain
- The achievements of the earliest civilisations - an overview of where and when the first civilisations appeared and a depth study of one of the following: Ancient Sumer; The Indus Valley; Ancient Egypt; The Shang Dynasty of Ancient China
- Ancient Greece - a study of Greek life and achievements and their influence on the western world
- a non-European society that provides contrasts with British history

Implementation

In EYFS, children are expected to show knowledge of Past and Present, People, Culture and Communities.

The children have opportunities to participate in adult-led and child initiated structured play activities to develop their historical understanding. They also have first-hand experiences including school trips and visitors to enhance their learning within this specific area. Staff also ensure that meaningful cross-curricular links are made with specific areas of learning e.g. literacy and maths.

Key Stage One & Two

In order to achieve the objectives of the History Curriculum, it is taught through a half-termly topic approach. Topics have been mapped to the National Curriculum Programmes of Study for History using Rising Stars.

Vocabulary is displayed in classrooms and continual reference to previous learning is made across the key stages. This works to ensure that children can recall facts, use related terminology and make links to their learning; both in history and across the curriculum.

To enhance the learning experience of our children our history curriculum acknowledges and incorporates different styles of learning and helps children to develop skills. The knowledge, skills and understanding gained through the curriculum is acquired through a variety of experiences. These include:

- the use of primary/secondary sources of information eg. artefacts, photos etc.
- drama and role play.
- story telling
- the use of technology
- creative activities such as painting/model making.
- visitors
- educational/residential trips.

Recording children's work

Children have history books in KS1/2 in which they record their learning. These will move up with children to support building on previously learnt skills and concepts as well as the development of chronological awareness.

Equality

Positive attitudes towards the subject are encouraged, so that all pupils, regardless of race, gender, ability or special needs, including those for whom English is a second language, develop an enjoyment and confidence with history.