



Curriculum Narrative - History

Key Stage 1 History at Our School

In Key Stage 1, our history curriculum is designed to help young children develop a sense of time, place, and how things change.

We begin by looking at changes within living memory – exploring how life has changed over time, especially within our own families and communities. This helps children understand what the past means in a personal and meaningful way.

Children also learn about the lives of significant individuals who have made a lasting impact. For example, they study David Attenborough and Mary Anning, learning not only about their achievements but also the historical time periods they lived in. Children are introduced to ideas like legacy – the impact people leave behind.

This learning is deepened through further studies of explorers and astronauts such as Neil Armstrong, Mae Jemison, Bernard Harris Jr., and Tim Peake, helping children compare lives across different times and understand the progress of exploration, both on Earth and in space.

We also explore local history, helping children learn about the people, buildings, and events that shaped the place they live. By studying significant people and places in our own area, children develop a stronger connection to their local community and its past.

Children then look at events beyond living memory, like the Great Fire of London, to help them understand important events that happened long ago but still matter today.

Lower Key Stage 2 History at Our School (Years 3 and 4)

Throughout their time in Key Stage 1, children regularly revisit key topics and ideas to strengthen their understanding. By the end of KS1, they have built a strong foundation in chronology, historical enquiry, and why history matters, both locally and in the wider world.

In Lower Key Stage 2, children explore the amazing cultural and technological achievements of our ancestors. They learn how Britain changed during the Stone, Bronze, and Iron Ages, discovering how early humans were creative, resourceful, and skilled at surviving in changing environments.

A detailed study of Iron Age Britain gives children a strong foundation to understand how the Romans later influenced the country. This helps them compare different time periods and see how cultures and technology evolved over time. Key ideas like

invasion, law, civilisation, and society are introduced with clear explanations to help children build a strong understanding.

Children also learn about the arrival of the Anglo-Saxons and Scots and how they shaped Britain's culture, including the important role of Christianity. They study powerful kings and how their beliefs influenced the different kingdoms of Anglo-Saxon Britain.

The Vikings are another exciting part of this unit. Children find out about where the Vikings came from, their conquests, and how they made agreements with Anglo-Saxon kings to settle in an area called the Danelaw.

To broaden their knowledge of ancient history, pupils also study fascinating ancient civilizations such as Ancient Egypt or the Shang Dynasty in China.

Upper Key Stage 2 History at Our School (Years 5 and 6)

In Upper Key Stage 2, children explore fascinating topics from ancient times to more recent history.

They learn about Ancient Greece, discovering how its culture, people, and achievements have influenced the western world. This study is connected with what was happening in Britain at the same time, helping children compare and understand different cultures and events.

Later, children revisit the Anglo-Saxons and compare their lives with the Maya civilisation or the Kingdom of Benin. They explore how these societies lived, their inventions, and how their cultures developed around AD 900.

In more recent history, children study how World War II affected our local area, and learn about the Windrush Generation. This includes understanding Caribbean culture, the history of slavery, and the challenges faced by early Caribbean pioneers who experienced racism and discrimination. These lessons help children appreciate the importance of equality and respect.

Personal, Social, Health and Citizenship Education (PSHE) and Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural (SMSC) learning are key parts of our history curriculum, helping children understand and challenge racism and prejudice.