



## History Rationale

Our History curriculum seeks to give pupils a solid foundation and broad overview in some of the most important periods, events and themes in British and World history. Throughout the curriculum connections and comparison are made between events and individuals.

In KS1, pupils learn about the passing of time and how things that they are familiar with today have changed throughout different periods of time. Pupils in Year 1 begin learning about the 1960s and how their grandparents lived which is a unit that builds upon learning in EYFS. In EYFS, as part of the Understanding the World early learning goal, children explore family customs and routines, celebrations and similarities and differences within their community. We aim for pupils to leave EYFS and KS1 with an understanding of what has gone before them and how it impacts on life today.

Units are sequenced in chronological order. The KS1 curriculum has many links to KS2, for example Victorian Britain is visited again in Year 6 when the children study the Industrial Revolution. The influence of the industrial revolution on today is explored in Year 1 as children learn about the impact of the invention of the telephone and in Year 3 when the children learn about the local history of the Jewellery Quarter. Other periods of history are visited again in KS2 such as Stuart, Roman and Pre-Historic Britain.

The Year Two Stone Age Britain unit gives children a broad knowledge of life in that period. This prepares them for their Prehistoric Britain unit in Year 3 where they delve even deeper into that period of history.

In KS2, the curriculum gives pupils a strong grounding in British history, taught chronologically from the first settlements through Roman Britain, the Vikings, Anglo-Saxon, the medieval period and up to the Industrial Revolution and Britain during the two World Wars. While studying these periods the units explore themes of change and continuity, perspective and power.

There are a number of topics exploring world history to provide global coverage and introduce a number of themes. The unit on Ancient Greece introduces key ideas around power. The unit on the Benin Kingdom aims to challenge the narrative often prevalent in the teaching of African history – celebrating a highly successful civilisation while introducing the slave trade. The unit on Civil Rights provides a survey of the way black people have been treated in the USA, through the Civil Rights movement and Dr King, right the way to the Black Lives Matter.

Throughout the curriculum, pupils are taught the substantive content which defines each period. Each lesson begins with retrieval practise to assess how much pupils have remembered. Each unit ends with an essay allowing pupils the opportunity to write about the knowledge and vocabulary that they have learnt. The disciplinary skills of history, such as source analysis, interpretation, perspective, continuity and change are all explicitly taught and practised.

The curriculum is ambitious. It challenges pupils to make connections across time and place.