

History – Curriculum Design

“We are not makers of history. We are made by history.”

Martin Luther King Jr.

Purpose of Study

A high-quality history education will help pupils gain a coherent knowledge and understanding of Britain’s past and that of the wider world. It should inspire pupils’ curiosity to know more about the past. Teaching should equip pupils to ask perceptive questions, think critically, weigh evidence, sift arguments, and develop perspective and judgement. History helps pupils to understand the complexity of people’s lives, the process of change, the diversity of societies and relationships between different groups, as well as their own identity and the challenges of their time.

What are the aims of the subject?

The national curriculum for history aims to ensure that all pupils:

- Know and understand the history of these islands as a coherent, chronological narrative, from the earliest times to the present day: how people’s lives have shaped this nation and how Britain has influenced and been influenced by the wider world.
- Know and understand significant aspects of the history of the wider world: the nature of ancient civilisations; the expansion and dissolution of empires; characteristic features of past non-European societies; achievements and follies of mankind.
- Gain and deploy a historically grounded understanding of abstract terms such as ‘empire’, ‘civilisation’, ‘parliament’ and ‘peasantry’.
- Understand historical concepts such as continuity and change, cause and consequence, similarity, difference and significance, and use them to make connections, draw contrasts, analyse trends, frame historically-valid questions and create their own structured accounts, including written narratives and analyses.
- Understand the methods of historical enquiry, including how evidence is used rigorously to make historical claims, and discern how and why contrasting arguments and interpretations of the past have been constructed
- Gain historical perspective by placing their growing knowledge into different contexts, understanding the connections between local, regional, national and international history; between cultural, economic, military, political, religious and social history; and between short- and long-term timescales.

History at Rodbourne Cheney Primary School

At Rodbourne Cheney Primary School, our history curriculum plays a crucial role in providing children with a love and appreciation of the past whilst developing a strong sense of identity and an understanding of the world. By exploring the past, children can connect historical events to their own lives, fostering a deeper appreciation for both their community and the global context. We



believe that history is more than memorising facts—it's about encouraging critical thinking, questioning, and understanding how history continues to shape the present.

Our curriculum brings history to life through engaging, immersive experiences that inspire enthusiasm and curiosity, helping children grasp key concepts while cultivating a genuine enthusiasm for the subject. We aim to spark children's interest in history by presenting it in ways that captivate their imaginations. Through whole-school themed days and interactive activities, we create opportunities for children to ask questions, investigate different perspectives, and form their own ideas. Additionally, we focus on teaching chronology, helping children to see how events and cultures connect over time, enabling them to view history as a coherent narrative, deepening their understanding and encouraging a lifelong love for the subject.

Our curriculum emphasises the importance of cross-curricular links, integrating history with other subjects to enrich students' overall learning. Additionally, we celebrate the diverse cultures that make up modern multicultural Britain, encouraging students to explore both UK and global histories. By valuing different perspectives, we help children appreciate the interconnectedness of our world and the many stories that shape it.

Through these approaches, we ensure that children learn and remember more, helping solidify their understanding while also keeping their interest high, as they see history not as a collection of distant facts, but as a story that is continuously unfolding.