

What does History look like at Vicarage Primary School?

At Vicarage School our History curriculum is informed by the National Curriculum. The curriculum is designed to include the themes of ancient civilisations, history of Britain and history of our local area, significant individual and events and history different cultures. Where possible the curriculum has been tailored to our children and diversity of our local area, teaching topics such as Ancient Islamic Civilisations.

Through the skills of enquiry, chronology, knowledge, interpretations, and communication, pupils are able to embed their historical learning and apply it to a variety of areas.

We aim for our pupils to:

- ✓ Become increasingly critical and analytical thinkers
- ✓ Possess a secure understanding of the chronology
- ✓ To discover links and connections to the History they learn and the wider community and locality
- ✓ Further their knowledge and explanations of change and continuity over time with regards to the history of the British Isles and other societies and epochs
- ✓ Differentiate between source types and explain how interpretations in History may differ
- ✓ Draw on similarities and differences within given time frames and across previously taught History
- ✓ Enquire into Historical themed questions and form their own opinions and interpretation of the past

History is taught in discreet lessons, this means that pupils are able to develop depth in their knowledge and skills over the duration of each of their History topics. Cross curricular learning is also promoted across the school and links are made to other subjects. For example key reading texts are used and opportunities for extended writing is built in.

Our History curriculum is based on eight key concepts,

Contribution to the Wider World	Civilisation	Medicine	Technology
Achievements	Education	Hierarchy	Empire

These key concepts are the 'big ideas' which run as threads through the curriculum. The same key concepts are explored and revisited in each unit of work in every year group. This enables pupils to build on prior knowledge, deepen their contextual knowledge and always working towards the bigger picture of achievement at the end of each year group or phase.

What do the children enjoy about History at Vicarage Primary School?

'I have enjoyed learning about how people lived in the past. By investigating and researching we can find out what life was like'

'I like finding out about what people were good at and how they changed our world like Florence Nightingale and the Ancient Egyptians.'

'It can be hands on and has lots of different activities like debates.'

History at Vicarage School

Examples of learning and enrichment activities at Vicarage Primary School.

History learning and enrichment is seen across all year groups in many forms. The curriculum has been designed to include learning opportunities where children are able to apply and communicate their learning. For example, this could be through educational trips to places like the Childhood Museum when exploring toys; The British Library for Ancient Islamic Civilisation or British Museum to see the Egyptians exhibition.

Outside of these trips the curriculum has been designed to include debates, research opportunities. Projects are also encouraged for children to complete at home with parental support. There are also opportunities for pupils to take part in drama workshops by theatre groups, where they can be immersed into their learning and knowledge can be embedded.

We have achieved the Gold Kite Mark Award.
This shows that the standard of History teaching and learning and the enrichment opportunities offered is very high.

Reasons for learning History

At Vicarage Primary School, our history curriculum encourages curiosity and fascination, it supports our pupils to question the past. It shows the pupils' that the past is not just black and white but can be viewed in different ways by different people. Whilst taking part in enquiries, pupils' build resilience and are respectful of different cultures and their histories. It has been designed to be a curriculum which encourages pupils to ask questions, be independent learners, collaborate and be aspirational. We want children to be able to confidently and skilfully question the past and have their own opinions reinforced by clear understanding and knowledge. We deliver a broad and balanced History curriculum in a way in which we make the learning meaningful for pupils. It gives our children a platform in which to discuss their own thinking, views and opinions and have a secure understanding of themselves and their place in the world.

We measure the impact of our curriculum through the following methods:

- ✓ **Pupil conferencing** – Are children happy, engaged, motivated to do well, challenged? Do they know more? Can they remember more?
- ✓ **Assessment** – Exit quiz and evaluations completed at the end of each topic to assess pupil's understanding, knowledge and skills. The information from assessments will be used to inform leaders of school improvements or skills that need to be further enhanced.
- ✓ **Book Looks** – Are all children making at least sufficient progress from their various starting points? Images and videos of pupil's practical learning.
- ✓ **Lesson Visits** – Quality of teaching and learning is good to outstanding
- ✓ **Parent surveys** – Are parents happy with the curriculum we provide, if not – how can we improve?
- ✓ **Subject portfolio** – Can you see progression of skills and knowledge across the school? Is the curriculum ambitious and goes beyond the National Curriculum?