



Fairchildes Primary School

History Policy

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Introduction

At Fairchildes we believe that the study of history impacts not only on cognitive and language development but also on the child's social and moral development. We believe that history also helps to develop a child's sense of being and belonging to a community. History is about the study of past societies and why societies have changed. This involves looking at social, political and economic factors and how these affected the lives of all people within a society.

In learning about the past, children will engage with various sources of evidence, gaining experience in critical thinking by questioning, analysing, and interpreting these sources.

This process encourages the development of key language skills—speaking, listening, reading, and writing—as well as drama and storytelling to bring history to life.

Our curriculum also integrates numeracy and geographical skills, allowing children to work with dates, primary data, maps, census records, and other historical documents.

This cross-curricular approach ensures that history not only enhances knowledge but also builds core academic skills.

Aims and Objectives

At Fairchildes, our history curriculum fosters an active, critical approach to studying the past and its relevance to contemporary life. Our objectives are to:

- Instil curiosity and an understanding of events, places, and people across various times and cultures.
- Foster a respect for human achievements, resilience, and diverse aspirations.
- Develop an understanding of societal values and cultural heritage.
- Engage students with the significant events in UK and world history, helping them appreciate their interconnectedness.
- Build a strong understanding of chronology to help children organise historical knowledge and insights.
- Highlight differences between past and present societies, encouraging children to appreciate diverse values and perspectives.
- Emphasise the process of historical enquiry and develop skills in interpreting primary and secondary sources.
- Encourage students to differentiate between historical facts and their interpretations.
- Teach children that historical events often have multiple causes, fostering an understanding of history as a field open to debate and diverse perspectives.

Teaching and Learning

The scheme of work for history at Fairchildes is based upon the National Curriculum. It is topic-based and each topic will have clearly identified subheadings: key questions, objectives, possible teaching activities, learning outcomes, assessment opportunities, historical skills, resources, and links with other areas of the curriculum.

The teaching and learning of history in our school is both stimulating and motivating. It should encourage children to ask questions, to identify ways in which they might find the answers and then to search for those answers. We use a variety of sources of information and evidence including books, multimedia resources, pictures, newspapers, diaries, letters and artefacts.

Pupils should experience as wide a range of teaching and learning methods as possible, including practical activities and direct experience through historical visits and trips.

Assessment

The approach to assessment, record keeping and reporting of this subject area follows the whole school policy guidelines.

All pupils' work is regularly marked and assessed against the key skills. Pupils are encouraged to improve their own learning performance through the school marking policy. Reports to parents are completed annually.

Inclusion

We ensure that all pupils, regardless of race, gender, socioeconomic status, ability, or disability, have the opportunity to succeed in history within a safe and supportive

learning environment. Educational visits and activities are designed to be inclusive, with adaptations made to support all physical abilities.

Teachers proactively identify the needs of students who are gifted, talented, have special educational needs (SEN), or are English as an Additional Language (EAL) learners, tailoring lessons to ensure both challenge and support. Our history curriculum celebrates cultural diversity, fostering positive attitudes towards others and recognizing the importance of varied cultural perspectives in understanding historical events.

Through the study of history, we empower children to appreciate other cultures and recognize the significance of their own backgrounds. This approach cultivates a respectful, inclusive environment where children feel valued and connected to a shared past.