

Birchfield Primary School



“Where Children Come First”

History Policy

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Introduction

We at Birchfield Primary School believe that children are very interested in the world around them and its past and that a high- quality History education should inspire our pupils to be more curious about the past. We believe that a high quality History education will help our pupils gain a coherent knowledge and understanding of Britain's past and that of the wider world.

Aims

The Aim of our History teaching at Birchfield Primary School is to:

- Foster an interest in learning about the past.
- Ensure that pupils have a coherent knowledge and understanding of the History of Britain and how Britain has influenced and been influenced by the wider world.
- Ensure that pupils know and understand significant aspects of History in the wider world.
- Develop a sense of chronology.
- Develop an understanding of Historical concepts such as: continuity and change, cause and consequence and similarity and difference.
- Encourage children to ask questions, form hypotheses and develop a point of view.

Curriculum Planning

Our planning is based on the new (2014) National Curriculum Programmes of Study. The long-term plan maps the History topics studied in each term during each year group and the children study History topics in conjunction with other subjects, especially at Key Stage 1. Some topics have a particular historical focus and in Key Stage 2 we place an increasing emphasis on independent historical study. We teach the knowledge, skills and understanding set out in the National Curriculum through the corresponding programme of study. Due to the new curriculum, new topics have been introduced in some year groups and will be reviewed at the end of the year. See Long term plan for an overview of topics. At Birchfield Primary School we plan for progression of key skills. When planning, teachers refer to the skills document which shows the key historical skills to cover in their year group and the progression of these skills across school.

Foundation Stage

We teach History in Foundation Stage as an integral part of ' Understanding the World'. In Foundation stage we focus on developing an understanding of the past, using vocabulary associated with the past, ordering and sequencing, communicating using past and present tense and understanding key events. These skills are taught through topics which are driven by the children's interests. The curriculum in Foundation stage is taught through experience-based activities.

Teaching & Learning

History teaching focuses on enabling children to think as historians. We use historical artefacts, primary and secondary sources, ICT, visits to sites of historical significance, inviting visitors into school to talk about their experiences of events in the past and occasional themed weeks. Wherever possible we use historical stories to stimulate interest in the past. We encourage children to ask questions, use sources to find answers and think critically. We encourage children to develop their historical skills and choose skills to teach through each topic. At Birchfield Primary School we also encourage children to communicate their knowledge in a variety of ways including drama, writing, drawing, speaking and project work.

Assessment

All Foundation subjects are assessed using ongoing teacher assessment. We assess children's work in History by making judgements as we observe them during each lesson. On completion of a piece of work, the teacher marks the work and comments as necessary. At the end of a unit of work, the teacher makes a summary judgement about the work of each pupil as to whether their skills are emerging, at the expected level or exceeding in relation to a particular objective. We use 'Rising Stars' on Classroom Monitor to record and update our assessments.

Resources

Resources to support History topics are kept in classrooms. We order topic books from the Leeds Library Service to support children's research. We also loan artefacts and resources from museums and Artemis.