



BIRCHINGTON CE PRIMARY SCHOOL

History Policy

LEARNING & GROWING; SAFE IN GOD'S LOVE

Rationale

At Birchington CE Primary School we aim to stimulate children's interest and understanding about the life of people who lived in the past and ways in which it differs from the present teaching them how to be respectful of each other and the choice that people make. We believe that learning about the past helps children to make sense of the world in which they live and to develop analytical thinking.

At Birchington CE Primary School we believe that the study of History makes a valuable contribution to the children's understanding of all aspects of life giving a sense of identity and heritage.

Aims of the History Curriculum

- *To develop an interest in the past and an appreciation of human achievements and aspirations;*
- *To understand the values of our society;*
- *To learn about the major issues and events in the history of our own country and of the world and how these events may have influenced one another;*
- *To develop knowledge of chronology within which the children can organise their understanding of the past;*
- *To enable children to know about significant events in British history and to appreciate how things have changed over time.*
- *Children develop a range of skills and abilities, no matter their unique starting point - particularly those related to finding out about the past, explaining what happened and what people then and now think about what happened.*

Implementation of Policy

Teaching of History

At Birchington CE Primary School the teaching and learning of history focuses on enabling children to think as historians.

We have used the best research to create a well sequenced and progressive curriculum map containing the key concepts children need to be procedurally fluent in, to work and think like historians. Teachers use the Curriculum, Skills, Knowledge and Progression Guide documents as a guideline to develop schemes of work appropriate to the learning needs of their class.

The key concepts in History we plan a progression for are as follows:

- *Chronological understanding*
- *Communicate historically*
- *Historical enquiry*
- *Interpreting history*
- *Historical concepts*
- *Organisation and communication*

Teaching Styles

At Birchington CE Primary School we ensure that History is taught without tenuous links to other subjects. We focus on providing skills and styles to enable the children to think as historians and encourage children to ask questions. Children learn to interpret information presented in graphical form such as timelines to help embed an understanding of important historical events. They research information using the Internet which develops their understanding on source reliability. They learn how society is made up of people from different cultures and start to develop tolerance and respect for others. The history programme of study enables children to understand that Britain's rich cultural heritage can be further enriched by the multi-cultural British society of today.

We encourage children to take an active role in their learning and provide opportunities for children to develop the key skills of communication as well as improve their own learning performance. History is celebrated throughout the school through displays, presentations of work to other members of the school and the local community and commemorating historic events.

Early Years Foundation Stage

At Birchington CE Primary School history makes a significant contribution to the development of each child's understanding of the world. One of the key ways which children develop their understanding of past and present is through storytelling, and the rich discussions had about characters and events.

In the EYFS, History is about having the opportunities to find out and learn about the world they live in and discover the meaning of new and old in relation to their own lives. The history side of the children's work is related to the Past and Present, Understanding of the World objectives set out in the EYFS Curriculum.

Key Stage 1

During key stage 1 at Birchington CE Primary School children learn about people's lives and lifestyles from the more recent past. They listen and respond to stories and use sources of information to help them ask and answer questions. They learn how the past is different from the present. Children begin to learn about the more distant past through topics that have a direct connection to our local area. They use the primary resources available to help them understand a life very different from their own. Children in Year 2 experience a KIC Theatre workshop to fully immerse themselves in the key events of the Great Fire of London, giving children a holistic approach to learning.

Key Stage 2

At Birchington CE Primary School, in Key Stage 2, children learn about significant people, events and places from both recent and more distant past. They learn about change and continuity in their own area, in Britain and in other parts of the world. They use different sources of information to help them investigate the past, both in depth and in overview, using dates and historical vocabulary to describe events, people and developments. They also learn that the past can be represented and interpreted in different ways. Children get to participate in trips which help to bring historical events to life and allow children to consider how events have shaped the world that we live in today.

Resources

At Birchington CE Primary School there are a range of resources to support the teaching and learning of history both inside and outside the school. As we introduce our new programme of study the resources are being continuously developed to ensure they support the knowledge, skills and understanding of history. Teachers are encouraged to make use of the resources outside the school through trips to historical sites and immersive experiences. There is a continuing folder of contact details for visits and resources available to support staff in planning.

Assessment

At Birchington CE Primary School assessment is in line with the school's assessment policy. Teachers are currently expected to mark each lesson and provide pupils with verbal feedback when required to support their progress. At the end of a unit, teachers record their judgement of pupil progress on the whole school assessment system.

Monitoring of history takes place throughout the school by:

- *Observations of individual lessons.*
- *Monitoring and scrutinies of children's books.*
- *Discussions with both adults and children.*
- *Looking at classroom and year group displays.*
- *Planning scrutinies across the whole school.*

Inclusion

All children have access to History lessons and activities regardless of age, sex or ability at Birchington CE Primary School. Teaching approaches provide equality of opportunity by making sure the work is suitable for both boys and girls, considering religious and cultural beliefs and enabling those with disabilities to have full participation.

Disability Equality Impact Assessment

This policy has been written with reference to and in consideration of the school's *Disability Equality Scheme*. Assessment will include consideration of issues identified by the involvement of disabled children, staff and parents/carers and any information the school holds on disabled children, staff and parents/carers.

Last Reviewed: January 2025

To be reviewed: January 2026