Skills & Knowledge progression: History

National Curriculum - Aims and purpose

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.

Aims

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.

School aims - skills, attitudes and knowledge that we would like all children to develop on their journey through the school

We want our children to have a deep understanding of history by the time they leave our school. They need to be able to put historical events into context and order. They need to understand how and why events in the past have shaped the modern world and our place within it. And they need to have had first hand experiences of 'meeting' significant places, objects and artefacts so that history can come to life for them. In order to do all of that, our children need access to a rich, carefully structured history curriculum.

In Years 1 and 2 we explore a variety of major historical events such as The Great Fire of London and The Industrial Revolution that have had profound impacts on modern life. To support children in beginning to recognise why an understanding of history is so important children learn about people who have lived significant lives. Stapleford is a small rural, Church of England school in Hertfordshire. It was therefore considered important to develop a culturally rich curriculum that included significant lives from black history e.g. Rosa Parks, Martin Luther King. Equality was considered whilst designing our curriculum and the significant lives of strong women were included e.g. Grace Darling, Florence Nightingale. Our School is surrounded on three sides by farmland. The impact on our area of the "Industrial Revolution" was chosen as our local study and Jethro Tull was chosen as a significant life to study because of his role in the agricultural revolution and Stapleford's rural locality.

Moving through Key Stage 2, the focus moves to building-up a picture of the early history of the British Isles, from the Stone Age, Bronze Age and Iron Ages to Roman rule, Anglo-Saxon settlement and Viking invasions. Alongside this, children also learn about events and changes in the world beyond our shores (including the Ancient Egyptians and the Ancient Greeks) and a key turning point in more modern history (the Battle of Britain). The history of Hatfield House was chosen as the local historical study because of its' proximity to Stapleford (10 miles away) and the link with The Tudors topic. Creating a culturally rich curriculum was an influencing factor when The Kingdom of Benin was selected as one of our topics to be taught in Key Stage 2. The children learn about specific parts of the Second World War due to the huge impact it had on the world.

Throughout this chronological journey, we are constantly developing a sense of historical order and 'scale' as well as equipping our children with the skills of questioning, enquiry, evaluation and interpretation needed to be a good historian.

Milestones:

At Stapleford Primary School children are taught in mixed age classes e.g. Years 1 & 2 together etc. Our curriculum sets out progression in the form of three 'Milestones'. The children work towards each Milestone for two years. During the first year pupils attain an understanding of the skills set out in the Milestone and during the second year they develop an advanced or deeper understanding. Each Milestone contains a range of descriptors which provide details of the skills to be covered. Over a two-year period, students will become more and more familiar with these details by exploring them in a breadth of contexts. This helps pupils to "know more" and "remember more."

Links to learning in EYFS:

Communication and language

- Express themselves effectively, showing awareness of listeners' needs.
- Use past, present and future forms accurately when talking about events that have happened or are to happen in the future.

Understanding the World

- Remember and talk about significant events in their own experience.
- Talk about past and present events in their own lives and in the lives of family members. They know that other children don't always enjoy the same things, and are sensitive to this. They know about similarities and differences between themselves and others, and among families, communities and traditions.

Links to other subjects / curriculum areas:

- Art exploring art from the period of history being studied / famous artists from this time and using this to inspire own work
- RE the history of major religions, the link between their spread / change and global events (eg. the spread of Christianity in the Roman Empire), religious beliefs of ancient peoples (eg. Egyptians & Mayans).
- DT constructing models and replicas of buildings, vehicles or armour from the past.
- Science the lives and impact of famous scientists.
- English reading for research, particularly original documents & writing to present and share findings.
- Understanding the history of countries will almost always link to their human and physical geography eg. rivers topic links to learning about Ancient Egypt when considering the importance of the Nile

Experiences every child should have:

- Visit significant national museums (eg. British Museum, Imperial War Museum, RAF Hendon).
- Meets and talk to people who have lived through important moments in history (eg. WW2 evacuees)
- Explore local museums to develop a stronger link to topics being studied ('we found this just a mile from where you live'; 'this is what life was like in our town 100 years ago')
- Have opportunities to handle historical artefacts and draw their own inferences and conclusions from them.
- Experience what life was like in the more distant past through trips, themed days and (where possible) residential visits
- Meet professional historians and talk to them about how they piece together clues to form a more complete picture of the past.

Skills Progression: History – Years 1 & 2

Year groups	Investigate and interpret the past	Build an overview of world history	Understand chronology	Communicate historically
Years 1 & 2 Milestone 1	 Observe or handle evidence to ask questions and find answers to questions about the past. Ask questions such as: What was it like for people? What happened? How long ago? Use artefacts, pictures, stories, online sources and databases to find out about the past. Identify some of the different ways the past has been represented. 	Describe historical events. Describe significant people from the past. Recognise that there are reasons why people in the past acted as they did.	 Place events and artefacts in order on a time line. Label time lines with words or phrases such as: past, present, older and newer. Recount changes that have occurred in their own lives. Use dates where appropriate. 	Use words and phrases such as: a long time ago, recently, when my parents/carers were children, years, decades and centuries to describe the passing of time. Show an understanding of the concept of nation and a nation's history. Show an understanding of concepts such as civilisation, monarchy, parliament, democracy, and war and peace.

Skills Progression: History - Years 3 & 4

Year groups	Investigate and interpret the past	Build an overview of world history	Understand chronology	Communicate historically
Years 3 & 4 Milestone 2	Use evidence to ask questions and find answers to questions about the past. Suggest suitable sources of evidence for historical enquiries. Use more than one source of evidence for historical enquiry in order to gain a more accurate understanding of history. Describe different accounts of a historical event, explaining some of the reasons why the accounts may differ. Suggest causes and consequences of some of the main events and changes in history.	Describe changes that have happened in the locality of the school throughout history. Give a broad overview of life in Britain from ancient until medieval times. Compare some of the times studied with those of other areas of interest around the world. Describe the social, ethnic, cultural or religious diversity of past society. Describe the characteristic features of the past, including ideas, beliefs, attitudes and experiences of men, women and children.	Place events, artefacts and historical figures on a time line using dates. Understand the concept of change over time, representing this, along with evidence, on a time line. Use dates and terms to describe events.	Use appropriate historical vocabulary to communicate, including: • dates • time period • era • chronology. • Use literacy, numeracy and computing skills to a good standard in order to communicate information about the past.

Skills Progression: History – Years 5 & 6

Year groups	Investigate and interpret the past	Build an overview of world history	Understand chronology	Communicate historically
Years 5 & 6 Milestone 3	Use sources of evidence to deduce information about the past. Select suitable sources of evidence, giving reasons for choices. Use sources of information to form testable hypotheses about the past. Seek out and analyse a wide range of evidence in order to justify claims about the past. Show an awareness of the concept of propaganda and how historians must understand the social context of evidence studied. Understand that no single source of evidence gives the full answer to questions about the past. Refine lines of enquiry as appropriate.	Identify continuity and change in the history of the locality of the school. Give a broad overview of life in Britain from medieval until the Tudor and Stuarts times. Compare some of the times studied with those of the other areas of interest around the world. Describe the social, ethnic, cultural or religious diversity of past society. Describe the characteristic features of the past, including ideas, beliefs, attitudes and experiences of men, women and children.	Describe the main changes in a period of history (using terms such as: social, religious, political, technological and cultural). Identify periods of rapid change in history and contrast them with times of relatively little change. Understand the concepts of continuity and change over time, representing them, along with evidence, on a time line. Use dates and terms accurately in describing events.	Use appropriate historical vocabulary to communicate, including: dates time period era chronology continuity change century decade legacy. Use literacy, numeracy and computing skills to an exceptional standard in order to communicate information about the past. Use original ways to present information and ideas.

History: Curriculum covered at Stapleford Primary School

KS1 (Class 3 - Years 1 & 2) Rolling Programme

Subject	Year A (2022-2023), (2024-2025) (2026-2027) etc.			Year B (2021-2022), (2023-2024), (2025-2026) etc.		
	Autumn Term	Spring Term	Summer Term	Autumn Term	Spring Term	Summer Term
	Event beyond living memory:	Event beyond living memory:	Significant lives:	Significant lives	Event within living memory:	Significant lives:
History	i) The Battle of Hastings	i) The Great fire of London	i) Jethro Tull (Agricultural revolution)	(Strong women):	i) First World War	i) JFK
	i) The battle of Hastings	i) The Great life of London	(Agricultural revolution)	i) Grace Darling	i) First World War	ii)Martin Luther King (Black History)
(see Chris Quigley: History	ii) The Plague	ii) The Gunpowder Plot	Significant local event:	ii) Florence Nightingale		iii) Neil Armstrong
Curriculum Companion for topic details			i) The Steam Engine	iii)Emily Davison		III) Nell Allistions
			,	iv)Rosa Parks		
			ii) The Industrial Revolution	(Black history)		Event within living memory:
				, , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , ,		i) The Moon Landings

Lower KS2 (Class 2 – Year 3 & 4) Rolling Programme

Subject	Year A (2022-2023), (2024-2025) (2026-2027) etc.			Year B (2021-2022), (2023-2024), (2025-2026) etc.		
	Autumn Term	Spring Term	Summer Term	Autumn Term	Spring Term	Summer Term
	The Stone Age	Ancient Egypt	The Bronze Age	The Romans	Anglo-Saxons	The Vikings
History	i) Tools and weapons	i) Clues from the past	i) Bronze Age around the world	i) Romans around the world	i) Anglo-Saxon kingdom and conquest	i) Sailors and raiders
	ii) Hunter gatherers	ii) Pyramids and obelisks		ii) Roman Britain	conquoci	ii) Kingdoms and conquests
(see Chris Quigley: History	iii)Clues from the past	iii) Beliefs and burials	ii) Clues form the Past	iii)Clues from the past	ii) Beliefs and burials	
Curriculum Companion for topic details)			The Iron Age			
			i) Tools and weapons			
			ii)Forts and farming			

Upper KS2 (Class 1 – Years 5 & 6) Rolling Programme

Subject	Year A (2022-2023), (2024-2025) (2026-2027) etc.			Year B (2021-2022), (2023-2024), (2025-2026) etc.		
	Autumn Term	Spring Term	Summer Term	Autumn Term	Spring Term	Summer Term
	Ancient Greeks	The Maya	The Tudors	The Victorians	Second World War	Explorers
History	i) Influence and impact	i) builders and growers	i) Tudor monarchs	i) Innovation and industry	- Weapons	i) Roald Amundsen –
	ii) Myths and legends	ii) clues from the past	ii) Tudor entertainment and	ii) Exploration and empire	- Battle of Britain	Race to the South Pole
(see Chris Quigley: History	iii) Clues from the past	ii) clues from the past	exploration		- Impact of WWII	ii) Amelia Earhart –
Curriculum Companion for topic details)			iii) A local history study –			Solo flight across the
			The history of Hatfield House			Atlantic
						iii)Sir Edmund Hillary –
						Mount Everest