ALLENDALE PRIMARY SCHOOL
HISTORY POLICY

Aim
To produce a high quality school wide History Programme of Study to stimulate the pupils' interest and enable them to gain a coherent knowledge and understanding of Britain's past and that of the wider world. Allendale Primary School will also teach children a range of enquiry skills to help their investigative abilities. These will be developed throughout the Key Stages in line with the school's long term Skills Map.

Rationale
To help pupils understand the process of change, the diversity of societies, the relationship between different groups of people in the past and the challenges of their times.

History teaching at Allendale Primary School aims to foster in pupils an interest in the past and develop an understanding that enables them to enjoy all that History as a National Curriculum foundation subject has to offer. We will teach children a sense of chronology, and through this they develop a sense of identity and a cultural understanding based on their historical heritage. Thus they learn to value their own and other people's cultures in modern multicultural Britain and, by considering how people lived in the past, they are better able to make their own life choices today.

Our specific aims are as follows:

- to cultivate a sense of the past and a knowledge of events, their causes, effects and the people involved in and affected by them.
- To enable pupils to know about significant events in British history and to appreciate how things have changed over time.
- To have some knowledge and understanding of historical development in the wider world.
- To help pupils understand family and local history, so that they develop a sense of their cultural heritage.
- To develop in pupils the skills of enquiry, investigation, analysis, evaluation and presentation.
- To develop a sense of chronology.
- To develop an appreciation of how we gain knowledge of the past.
- To understand and confidently use the terminology specific to the subject.
- To encourage open enquiring minds which are aware of individual viewpoints.
- To encourage the development of informed opinions and to support such opinions with reasoned arguments, communicating ideas and opinions effectively.
- To enable pupils to be able to work independently and co-operatively.
- To enable pupils to perceive History in the context of a wider body of knowledge, vocabulary and skills.

Teaching and Learning

Following our Teaching and Learning Policy, we use a variety of teaching and learning styles in our History lessons. We are aware that our pupils have preferred styles of learning and incorporate visual, auditory and kinesthetic learning styles into our teaching practice. We believe in whole class teaching methods and we combine these with enquiry based research activities. We encourage pupils to ask as well as answer questions and use ICT to enhance their learning.

First hand experiences will be at the heart of our work in History. These experiences will be varied and include working outside the classroom using the local environment, visits to sites of historical interest as well as using and handling objects, photographs and other sources of evidence and information.
Historical study will be linked purposefully to many other subjects in the curriculum. We deliver the subject through topic work identified in the schools' Long Term Plan on a three year rolling programme ensuring continuity and progression.

We recognise the fact that there are children of widely different abilities in all classes and we provide suitable learning opportunities for all by matching the challenge of the task to the ability of the child. We are fully inclusive in our approach and differentiation can be either by task or by outcome and support is provided where the need is identified. We recognise that the nature of History as a subject motivates the majority of children.

Subject Content Key Stage 1

Pupils will be taught about:

- Changes within living memory.
- Events beyond living memory – Great Fire of London.
- The lives of significant individuals in the past who have contributed to national and international achievements. Some will be used to compare aspects of life in different periods – Neil Armstrong, Grace Darling, Scott/Anderson.
- Significant historical events, people and places in their own locality - Romans.

Subject Content in Key Stage 2

Pupils will be taught about:

- Changes in Britain from the Stone Age to the Iron Age.
- The Roman Empire and its impact on Britain – Hadrian's Wall and forts.
- Britain's settlement by Anglo Saxons and Scots – invasions, settlements and culture.
- The Viking and Anglo Saxon struggles – Viking raids, Saxon resistance up to the death of Edward the Confessor in 1066.
- A local history study dating from the period beyond 1066 that is locally significant.
- A study of an aspect/theme that extends pupil's chronological knowledge beyond 1066 – Monarchy, World War 1 & 2, Flight through the ages

- An overview of the achievements of the earliest civilizations and an in depth study of one – Ancient Egypt.
- Ancient Greece – a study of Greek life and achievements and their influence on the western world.
- A non - European society that provides contrasts with British history – Mayan civilization A.D. 900, India, North America

Assessing Pupil Progress

We assess the children's work in History by making informal observations during lessons. Records are kept in teacher's files or in written notes and marking of children's work. This evidence is used to form the annual report to parents and care givers.
Monitoring of the standards of children's work and of the quality of teaching in History is the responsibility of the subject leader. The work of the subject leader also involves supporting colleagues in the teaching of History, being informed about current developments in the subject and providing a strategic lead and direction for the subject across the school.

Resources

Resources to support the teaching of History have been bought and are stored in labeled boxes. ICT resources are also available and appropriate websites used for teaching, learning, information and research purposes.

History Policy
October 2026