



Blackwater History Strategy **2023- 24**

Statement of Intent

“We are not makers of history. We are made by history”

- Martin Luther King, Jr.

Here at Blackwater Community Primary School, it is our aim to instil a love of History in all our children. We want children to love history. We want them to have no limits to what their ambitions are and grow up wanting to be archivists, museum creators, archaeologists or research analysts.

We aim to provide a history curriculum with appropriate subject knowledge, skills and understanding as set out in the National Curriculum History Programmes of study. We aim to provide an interesting and varied curriculum that interests and intrigues our children while meeting the needs of all backgrounds, cultures and abilities.

From EYFS up to the end of KS2, the children will be taught about various historical events, where they take place within a historical timeline and famous historical figures, some of which have shaped the world today. We will, where possible, link History to other subject areas.

Statement of Implementation

At Blackwater, all historical work undertaken has been carefully organised to provide breadth and depth of knowledge and understanding as well as developing skills.

History is taught in termly blocks throughout the year, so that children develop a deeper understanding and depth to their learning. Teachers understand the key knowledge and skills of each topic and consideration has been given to ensure progression throughout each year group across the school. By the end of year 6, children will be secure in drawing comparisons and making connections between different time periods and their own lives. They will also have a good sense of chronological understanding of British history from the Stone Age to the present day.

We start each new term with a ‘hook’ for learning called a ‘WOW Day’. Wow days provide engagement, excitement and a gateway into a new and exciting topic. Wow days can vary from: archaeological digs, being hands on with artefacts, WOW videos, visitors in school and many more. History is embedded throughout the curriculum using cross curricular outcomes, by creating strong links between the history curriculum and literacy lessons enables further contextual learning. History provides excellent opportunities to support all learning abilities through investigations, outdoor learning and analysing sources. We are incredibly fortunate to have a vast amount of outdoor space, including Wild Area to allow children to be hands on with history, this helps to support our commitment to inclusive learning.

We have developed a progression of skills with each year group, which enables pupils to build on and develop their skills each year.

- The Early Years Foundation Stage Curriculum supports children’s understanding of History through the planning and teaching of ‘Understanding the World’. This aspect is about how children find out about past and present events in their own lives, their families and other people they know. Children are encouraged to develop a sense of change over time and are given opportunities to differentiate between past and present by observing routines throughout the day, growing plants, observing the passing of seasons and time and looking at photographs of their life and of others.

- In KS1, History begins by looking at the children's own personal history and introduces them to the idea of chronology and timelines.
- In KS1, History will look at significant events and people who have shaped society, locally, nationally and globally.
- In KS2, each year group studies aspects of local history, a British history topic and an ancient history topic.
- In KS2, UK history is taught mainly chronologically to allow children to confidently place each time period. This allows pupils to consistently build on previous knowledge and learning by placing previously taught History topics on a timeline.

Educational visits are a key part of our history curriculum and we aim to have two visits each year. They offer opportunity for the teachers to plan for additional history learning outside the classroom. Our children have explored local museums and had visitors into school to share learning and have hands on experiences.

National Curriculum for History

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/239035/PRIMARY_national_curriculum_-_History.pdf

Statement of Impact

The impact of our History curriculum is that our learners are equipped with the historical skills and knowledge that will enable them to be ready for the secondary curriculum and for life as an adult in the wider world.

The children will be able to discuss their learning and demonstrate their knowledge and understanding through a range of activities.

Outcomes in topic books evidence a broad and balanced History curriculum and demonstrate children's acquisition of identified key historical knowledge and skills.

Furthermore, good historical questioning helps pupils to gain a coherent knowledge and understanding of Britain's past. Through our curriculum, pupils learn to think critically, ask perceptive questions and evaluate evidence. In order to ensure our aims have been met, we scrutinise topics through:

- Assessing children's understanding of topic linked vocabulary before and after the unit is taught.
- Interviewing the pupils about their learning (pupil voice).
- Moderation where pupil's books are scrutinised and there is the opportunity for a dialogue between teachers to understand their class's work.
- Sharing good practice in staff meetings.