



West Byfleet Infant School
We Belong, Inspire, Succeed

History Policy



Context of Policy to our School vision and Values

Our school vision is 'We Belong, Inspire, Succeed'. This reminds us daily that children need to feel safe and secure within the school community, have opportunities to inspire their interests and an enthusiasm for learning, as well as achieving success at all levels.

At West Byfleet Infant School, we believe that History helps children to understand the importance of the present and the past. It aims to develop an understanding of identity and the development of Britain and the World. We focus on learning about the process of change and their own identity. It fosters an interest and understanding of the past and helps pupils to make sense of the world in which they live. We teach children the skills needed to study the past and present through off site trips, workshops, visitors, photos and online and physical resources.

Member of staff responsible	Sam Dudley
Date Policy Produced	Autumn 2025
Policy agreed/last reviewed	Autumn 2024
Next review date	Autumn 2026
Other Related Policies	
Is it a Statutory Policy?	No
Does it need Governor approval?	No

History at West Byfleet Infant School

Aims:

1. To develop curiosity, interest and awareness of the past and how it is similar and different to the present.
2. To teach children about chronology.
3. To develop children's understanding of how we research about the past.
4. For children to know and understand significant events of the past.
5. To begin to understand historical terms and vocabulary.

At West Byfleet Infant School we aim to ensure that our children can...

- Ask historical questions.
- Use historical vocabulary to refer to key human and physical features.
- Use secondary resources of information to find out about the past.
- Sequence objects and events in the correct order.
- Understand why people acted in certain ways and how it is different at different lifetimes.
- Understand that the past is shown in a variety of ways such as pictures, written accounts, plays and songs.

Our Curriculum:

Our curriculum follows the National expectations and we use Cornerstones projects to enhance and support our planning, sequencing and resourcing. We encourage children to participate in a variety of experiences through which we aim to build up the confidence and resilience of all individuals.

There are opportunities for children of all abilities to develop their skills and knowledge in each enquiry question, the progression of skills planned into the units of work means that the children are increasingly challenged throughout their time in school. KS1 focus on changes within living memory, events beyond living memory and the lives of significant people that are significant nationally and globally, and significant historical events, people and places that are in our own locality.

In the Early Years Foundation Stage, we relate the History learning to the objectives set out from Birth to 5 Matters 2021 under 'Understanding the World'.

The History Subject Leader, monitors planning & teaching through the year, to ensure continuity, progression and high standards throughout the school.

Teaching & Learning:

At West Byfleet we believe in making History an enjoyable learning experience. We encourage children to participate in a variety of experiences through which we aim to build up the confidence of all children with their historical skills. In the EYFS team, there is ongoing provision for children to access both inside and outside the classroom. Enhanced provision, objective led learning and questioning will also take place where applicable. In KS1 the lessons are practical and engaging and follow many of the same attributes from the EYFS with questioning and resources. This allows a progression of skills and History enquiry across school at a level appropriate for children at their own level of understanding.

Resources:

In the Year 2 corridor there is a cupboard of resources available for all year groups to use. There is a wide range of books organised into appropriate categories and artefacts can be supplied by Chertsey Museum. Online resources can also be used such as videos and google to

search information. Role play is used across school in at a level appropriate to the children. Workshops are often used for children to dress up and re-enact historical events. Other adults are also encouraged to share their experiences of the past with the children.

Recording

Lessons should be engaging, fun and practical where possible, however, work should be recorded in KS1 discovery books at least once a term, or in a floor book, for group recordings. This can be done through written work, drawings or purple pen for pupil voice with a picture (marking policy). Tapestry may be used in Reception and Year 1 to record children's learning. Teachers should follow the marking policy and challenges should be given in accordance with History learning.

Assessment

Assessments are made in line with the school assessment policy. Children demonstrate their ability in History in a variety of different ways. Teachers will assess children's learning in History by making informal judgements as they observe them during practical lessons or during written work. Class Teachers record assessments half termly using Cornerstones assessment tool. These assessments are used to inform future planning.