

History at Our School

The school's intent for History learning focuses on developing children's understanding of how life has changed over time, both within the UK and the wider world, and how these changes may impact life in the future. We believe that through the study of History, children develop a strong understanding of, and increased exposure to, diversity and British Values, deepening their appreciation of their own heritage as well as wider historical events.

At Bursley, children's historical journey begins in EYFS, where units of work include Me and My Family, Transport in the Past, and The Seaside. These units support children's understanding of the past and help them to develop an early sense of chronology. Additionally, children begin to acquire historical vocabulary, such as past, present, before and after, which allows them to start making connections between events and changes over time. They also begin to explore historical sources, such as stories, photographs, and artefacts, to help them understand how life was different in the past.

In Key Stage 1, children deepen their understanding of changes in everyday life by studying Victorian Britain and Britain in the 1960s. They compare their own lives with those of people from these periods, sparking curiosity as they ask questions and explore how life then differs from life today. Children also learn about the lives and impact of significant individuals, including famous nurses and explorers, and how their actions influenced the UK and the wider world. In addition, they study key historical events, such as the Great Fire of London and the Titanic, investigating their causes, consequences, and lasting impact.

In KS2, the study of British History, from the Stone Age through to the Vikings, helps children to develop their chronological understanding and provides opportunities to reflect on their previous learning. Beginning with the Stone Age to Iron Age in Year 3, children evaluate how aspects of everyday life have developed over time. In Year 4, they compare life in these early periods with the lives of those who followed, such as the Romans and Anglo-Saxons. The exploration of different invaders and settlers, including the Romans, Anglo-Saxons, Picts, and Scots, builds on their knowledge of historical change, helping them to understand how Britain evolved across centuries. By Year 5, children compare the lives of people under the reigns of Queen Elizabeth I, Queen Victoria, and Queen Elizabeth II, exploring the impact British monarchs had on Britain and the wider world.

The study of Ancient Civilisations is woven throughout KS2, covering the Ancient Greeks, Egyptians, and Romans. These units build on children's geographical knowledge of the wider world. By comparing ancient with modern-day life, children gain a deeper understanding of how these cultures have shaped the world we live in today.

At the end of their historical journey at Bursley, Year 6 children focus on one of the most significant turning points in British history: World War II. This unit not only inspires children but also deepens their understanding of the sacrifices made during this period. By comparing and contrasting various aspects of life during World War II

with the present day, children gain insight into the enduring impact of this pivotal period on Britain and the wider world.

