



History Policy

This policy should be read in connection with the Whole School Curriculum Policy.

"Schools should bear in mind that the objective in the National Curriculum is to ensure that each pupil should obtain maximum benefit by offering pupils the opportunity to reach the highest possible achievements without making impossible demands".

History pupils develop curiosity in, and an understanding of, the past. Pupils learn about the recent past, the more distant past of other people, both famous and ordinary, and how their own role in their family and community has changed.

History will help us deliver the aims of Beacon Hill School in the following ways:

Actively develops parental partnerships for the benefit of the children

Parents are the starting point for pupils' knowledge and understanding of their own lives and the changes that take place in their lives. By being an active part of school life parents can develop a sense of belonging to the school community. Parents can contribute to the history curriculum by providing photographs and artefacts of their past lives, as well as coming into school to talk about memories they have of growing up.

Has high expectations for continuous improvement in order to raise standards for pupils

Every pupil has an entitlement to the history curriculum at a level that they can make sense of it. The pupils' understanding of the world and the place they have in it can be broadened through the study of history. It is important that high standards of teaching and resources are used to enable pupils to gain the most from this subject. At Beacon Hill pupils can experience history in a multi-sensory environment, from exploring artefacts, food, clothing etc from the past to music and smells of a period of time.

Establishes an atmosphere of security, trust and respect for all

By reinforcing pupils' knowledge and understanding of events, people and changes in their own lives, the pupils develop a feeling of well-being and safety in the school environment. By using artefacts, visiting historical sites and by studying the changes in the environment throughout history, the pupils will develop an awareness of the need for respect for people, places and objects.

Positively promotes and encourages independence, confidence and self-advocacy

As people and events from the past have an effect on life today, pupils can develop their own sense of worth and self-advocacy skills to help effect the lives of people in the future.

Values communication and provides the time and opportunity to make it effective.

Through history pupils can develop an understanding of how important communication is and that everyone has a right to give their opinion in which ever way is appropriate to them. Pupils' are able to communicate in their own way and can use objects of reference, pictures, symbols, augmentative and alternative communication devices and specialist computer programs to help them to communicate their understanding of the past.

That extends inclusion within and beyond the school

Through the study of history and visiting different historical sites pupils are able to represent Beacon Hill School and develop links with places in the wider community.

Celebrates achievement for all

History should provide many excellent opportunities for the display and sharing of pupil's work and ideas. Achievement by the pupils is recognised and celebrated over time through work, displays and record of achievements.

Aims

Specifically the aims of historical Study include:

- *History should develop pupils' knowledge and understanding of the sequences, routines and chronological patterns that make up their world*
- *History should help pupils to develop an understanding of their personal history alongside understanding about events in the world and what shapes them*
- *History should develop pupils' knowledge and understanding of how people lived in other times and how those times were different from today*
- *History should allow pupils to experience a range of representations of the past*
- *History should allow pupils to use a range of evidence to find out about the past.*

Guidelines

1. Pupils at Beacon Hill will have access to the history curriculum except at KS4 and 6th Form
2. Key Stage one, two and three National Curriculum programmes of study will be useful to all pupils
3. The curriculum content should be cross-curricular with links to different subjects, for example, literacy, art, PSHE, drama etc

4. Each key stage should deliver the correct curriculum percentage time for history each week
5. The history curriculum will be taught through a three yearly cycle of topics with specific elements linked to specific topics. Details are in the schemes of work.
6. There should be comprehensive long term, medium and short term planning through curriculum maps, schemes of work and lesson plans respectively.
7. During planning reference is made to schemes of work, which have been written with close reference to the QCA documents, ensuring that breadth, progression and all elements of history are covered.
8. National P-scales are used in history as a means of informing planning and monitoring progress made by pupils.
9. Work in history will be recorded regularly and this recording will inform pupils learning.
10. Work will be assessed annually through teacher assessments and reported to parents as part of the annual review procedures.
11. It is important for content and progression that history lessons are regularly monitored
12. The pupils should be introduced to the relevant key stage but will be differentiated for pupils' individual needs
13. For all pupils the emphasis will be on concrete experiences to develop their understanding. Community facilities are used to reinforce these experiences.
14. Pupils with profound and multiple learning difficulties will be taught through specific schemes of work which aim to maximise their experience and the use of their senses.
15. Pupils with Autism Spectrum Disorder will be supported by PECS and visual structure to maximise their potential
16. Access to the study of history will be in accordance with the equal opportunities policy.
17. The use of signs and symbols as well as ICT will be used to improve teaching in this area.
18. Pupils will use the Internet to access carefully selected historical information to help support their study.
19. Pupil's ability to speak and listen will specifically be enhanced through historical discussion and exploration.
20. Pupil's achievements in history will be variable but will always be valued and where appropriate, celebrated.
21. The emphasis at all times will be on improving the skills of all the pupils and on improving the work of the school in this area.
22. For the continuous development of the history curriculum an action plan is written and reviewed each year.