



Springfield Primary Academy History Statement of Intent

At Springfield Primary Academy, we aim to spark curiosity in children and develop active learners who question and think critically about the past. By examining a variety of source materials and thinking about what we can learn from them, weighing up their reliability and validity, we aim to develop children who can exercise their own, independent perspectives and judgements about the past.

We offer a broad and balanced history curriculum that builds on the skills, knowledge and understanding of all children from their different starting points. We incorporate the statutory requirements of the National Curriculum, alongside other opportunities and experiences. These include visits to sites of historical importance, handling a variety of artefacts and engaging experiences that aim to immerse the children in key historical events. Throughout, there is a strong emphasis on developing children's subject-specific vocabulary and understanding of historical concepts such as continuity and change, and cause and consequence.

History is underpinned by The Essentials Curriculum which sets out progression in the form of three 'Milestones'. Each Milestone contains a range of descriptors which give more detail to be discovered within the concept. Over a two year period students will become more and more familiar with these details by exploring them in a breadth of contexts.

In Key Stage 1, children will develop an awareness of the past and understand where key people and events they learn about fit within a chronological framework. They will ask and answer questions about the past and begin to understand how they can find out more about it.

They will learn about:

- changes within living memory
- events beyond living memory that are significant nationally or globally, such as The Great Fire of London
- the lives of significant individuals in the past that have had a positive impact, such as Florence Nightingale, Elizabeth Fry and Scott of the Antarctic
- significant historical events, people and places in their locality

In Key Stage 2, children will continue to develop their knowledge and understanding of key people and events in the past and of their chronology, noting connections, trends and changes over time. They should continue to ask and answer questions, using a range of sources and information to inform their responses.

They will learn about:

- changes in Britain from the Stone Age to the Iron Age
- the Roman Empire and its impact on Britain
- Britain's settlement by Anglo-Saxons and Scots
- the Viking and Anglo-Saxon struggle for the Kingdom of England to the time of Edward the Confessor
- a local history study
- a study of an aspect or theme in British history that extends pupils' chronological knowledge beyond 1066



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- the achievements of the earliest civilizations – an overview of where and when the first civilizations appeared and a depth study of 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 – one study chosen from: early Islamic civilization, including a study of Baghdad c. AD 900; Mayan civilization c. AD 900; Benin (West Africa) c. AD 900-1300

We believe that helping children to be independent minded and critical historians is key to preparing them for adult life in the 21st century. It will help them to approach situations with an open mind, consider different people's opinions and form their own conclusions on different issues based on a critical assessment of the evidence provided. At a time when we face great global challenges, this has never been more important, and at Springfield Primary Academy we believe that our pupils have a part to play in shaping the world to become a better place.