

WINGROVE PRIMARY SCHOOL



Policy Statement for History

Subject leader: Tom Barker

Date formulated: November 2017

Date reviewed: November 2018

Date for review: November 2019

The Purpose of History at Wingrove

We, at Wingrove Primary School, believe that History is an essential subject in our children's Curriculum. We seek to ignite our children's passion for History through fascinating lessons that capture the children's curiosity and creativity. As a result we can facilitate our children's historical adventure towards achieving their full potential as young historians.

Furthermore, we believe that, by achieving this aim, we give our children a sense of identity in British and World History. Consequently, our children learn how to respect their environment, each other and cherish their freedoms they enjoy today due to human progress through History.

Planning an Engaging Historical Curriculum

At Wingrove, Historical teaching is integrated effectively through our school-wide Creative Curriculum planning. Using the National Curriculum as a guide, teachers draw in exciting links related to an overarching topic or theme question. For example, in Year 5 World War Two is taught through the question 'What if the World went to War?' From here, teachers use intriguing learning objectives to stimulate powerful lessons that ignite curiosity, creativity about Local, British, European and World History. These lessons also make draw on skills related to other subjects, including D&T, Art and Geography as well as utilising learning achieved in Maths and English.

We also firmly believe that History embodies significant elements of our own children's cultural, social, emotional education as well as giving the children a sense of identity. In conjunction with our valuing of Equal Opportunities, all children and all heritages are thoughtfully considered. This supports the children's rounded perspective and their holistic learning journey which we aim to achieve at Wingrove.

Teaching Methods and Approaches

As budding Historians, children need a variety of historical skills to support their learning. History at Wingrove engrosses children through a variety of powerful historical methods that will reach far beyond their experiences at Wingrove.

We achieve this by:

- **Engaging in the fundamental purpose of History:** the telling of human stories throughout time. Children, and teachers, love stories of Human struggles or successes. By connecting to our past, we show our children how to better our future. We do this by making historical stories accessible to the children and engaging them in relevant and memorable narrative.
- **Through use of primary and secondary sources:** By exposing and investigating an array of excellent resources, our children's imagination and empathy strengthens as a result of their learning moving from the abstract into reality. Such resources might be photographs, artefacts, map work or written accounts by either contemporaries or modern day researchers.
- **Showcasing History:** Wall-mounted displays in the classroom celebrate the children's learning journey and support their memory too. Around the school, displays include display cabinets containing artefacts and displays of local people and their significance.
- **Exploring Historical language and concepts:** To be successful historians, our children are taught a wide range of new historical vocabulary: technical terminology such as what the RAF are; the historical concepts, such as the Class System of the Victorian Era or the Medieval Feudal System; or the significance behind historical events such as the building of Hadrian's Wall.
- **Developing critical thought and justifiable opinions:** As a subject, History is rich with analytical and debatable opportunities. We seek to instil in children the art of justifiable opinions by demonstrating how to use fact and research to form informed thoughts and

reasoning. Thereby modelling how and why an individual needs evidence to make a constructive argument otherwise such debates can simply be frivolous.

- **Re-enactments and Drama:** From a Victorian classroom experience to World War Two Day, living history is exciting and memorable. Children relish living the past! Such experiences are vital for developing empathy amongst the children as they get feel for life in the previous age. Empathy is a powerful aid to children and has long-lasting benefits to their personal and social growth.
- **Out of school adventures:** an expedition out of school to a sight of historical significance or to venture into a museum creates powerful memories for children (their own history!) as well as make the classroom experience even more real.

A Brief Outline of History Topics Taught at Wingrove

	Autumn	Spring	Summer
Year 1		The History of the Moon Landing	History of Toys
Year 2	Myths inc. George and the Dragon	History of Tyneside	Great Fire of London
Year 3	Ancient Egypt		Stone Age to Iron Age Roman Britain
Year 4	Anglo-Saxon Britain and Viking Invasions up to 1066	Medieval Britain	
Year 5	A History Crime and Punishment World War II	The Golden Age of Pirates Ancient Greece	Titanic Pompeii
Year 6	Mayan Civilisation	Victorian Childhood and Slavery	