



## History Curriculum Statement



*'A people without the knowledge of their past history, origin, and culture is like a tree without roots.'*  
*Marcus Garvey*

At Vallis, we aim to ensure that our History curriculum is accessible to all and that will maximise the outcomes for every child so that they know more about the past and the impacts it has had on modern Britain, knowing more and remembering more. As a result of this, they will increase and develop their historical skills, concepts, knowledge and attitudes. As our children move through the school, they will develop an interest in their local history, the history of the United Kingdom as well as the history of the wider world, arousing their curiosity and motivation to learn. Teaching will develop and enable children to use their skills in chronology, continuity and change, and interpretation and understanding of historical sources.

### Intent

At Vallis First School, we want our children to love history. We want them to have no limits to ambitions and grow up with a passion for History in their lives and future careers and know that knowledge of the past helps us to understand the future. Our goal is for our children to develop a strong sense of the chronology of British history and to ignite an interest in and appreciation of the past – including why some people and events are significant because of the turning points they provided. Our pupils will study aspects of local, British, and ancient history every year and because of this, the children gain understanding of global historical development. It is crucially important that our children learn the 'how do we know' at the same time as the 'what do we know' and we put a strong emphasis on exposing children to a wide range of historical sources and artefacts.

### Implementation

At Vallis First School we have developed a progression of skills and knowledge for each year group, which enables pupils to build on and develop their understanding of the past each year. History is brought to life through field trips, visitors and artefacts: allowing our children to experience what life was like in the past.

We plan our History curriculum around 'Core Concepts'. This enables the children to link history to different areas of life and link their thoughts and ideas to these areas. Our 'Core Concepts' are: **revolution, culture, civilisation, society, settlement, invasion and trade.**

Developing the concept of History begins in EYFS, at Vallis, by looking at the children's own personal history and introduces them to the idea of chronology and timelines. They learn that history is linked to the past and define what past means, starting with how the past can be anything from yesterday to many years ago. We discuss important people at school and at home as well as how their experiences may be different depending on age.

In Key Stage 1, there is a focus on developing our children's understanding of British History as they continue to develop their awareness of the past. They learn about significant individuals who have contributed to the world. Children also learn about significant historical events within their local area. Our pupils start their historical learning with events they are already familiar with, such as Guy Fawkes and the Great Fire of London.

Moving into lower KS2, pupils will study aspects of local history, a British history topic and an ancient history topic, looking deeper into chronology, using timelines to place events in order, and how they can be divided into BC and AD.

Throughout the children's journey at Vallis, we ensure that:

- Children are given opportunities to study primary and secondary sources, use enquiry skills, make predictions and build on their historical knowledge. There are also opportunities for educational visits and visitors to enrich and enhance the pupil's learning experience.
- Each of our History lessons start with our 'Flashback four' which revisits our children's prior learning which draws out their learning using four questions to provide them with a stronger understanding of their previous learning and being able to link this to their current learning.: Previous Year, Last unit/lessons, key facts (Sticky Knowledge).

### Impact

The impact of this curriculum design will lead to outstanding progress over time across key stages relative to a child's individual starting point and their progression of skills. Our History curriculum will also lead pupils to be enthusiastic history learners, evidenced in a range of ways:

- Through pupil voice, children will be able to talk about the skills and knowledge they have acquired. Children will be engaged in History lessons and want to find out more. Children will complete research independently through projects and homework, and to further their own enjoyment about the subject or topic.
- Work will show that a range of topics is being covered, cross-curricular links are made where possible and differentiated work set as appropriate.
- The school environment will be history rich through displays, resources, vocabulary etc.
- As historians, children will learn lessons from history to influence the decisions they make in their lives in the future. Assessments and monitoring will show standards in History will be high and will match standards in other subject areas.

### Children at Vallis, will be able to:

- Identify key dates in history and chronologically order key periods of time
- Identify key facts about historical periods
- Be able to use evidence to make judgements and present these
- Have an understanding of the complexity of people's lives during different periods of time
- Draw on knowledge and skills to develop their understanding of changes within different time periods
- Understand the lasting impact of people in our past and how it has shaped today's world.

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