Newhall Junior School

History

Intent

At Newhall Junior School, we want our children to love History. We want them to have no limits to what their ambitions are and to grow up wanting to be historians, archaeologists, museum curators, researchers, teachers or authors.

We believe that all children at Newhall Junior School are historians. Our History curriculum is designed to develop curiosity about the past and a secure understanding of Britain's history and that of the wider world. Through carefully sequenced learning, pupils develop the knowledge, skills and vocabulary needed to investigate, interpret and question historical events, people and societies.

We aim for pupils to:

- gain a coherent knowledge and understanding of Britain's past and that of the wider world
- ask perceptive questions, think critically, weigh evidence and develop informed judgements
- understand the complexity of people's lives, the process of change and the diversity of societies
- confidently use historical vocabulary and disciplinary concepts in discussion and written work
- make links between local, national and global history
- develop enriched cultural capital through exposure to different periods, civilisations and cultures

Through the study of key historical themes, including **invasion, empire, migration, power and civilisation**, pupils develop historical perspective and a deeper understanding of connections across different periods of time. We want children to become enthusiastic, reflective and inquisitive historians who are prepared for the next stage of their education and develop a lifelong interest in the past.

Implementation

Newhall Junior School whole school curriculum map

	Unit 1	Unit 2	Unit 3
Year 3	**The Stone Age** What was new about the Stone Age?	**The Bronze Age and The Iron Age** Which was more impressive – the Bronze Age or the Iron Age	**Our Local Area** Why is local history important?
Year 4	**The Ancient Egyptians** How much did the Ancient Egyptians achieve?	**Roman Britain** Was the Roman invasion good or bad for Britain?	**Our Local Area** How did coal and clay shape the development of Swadlincote?
Year 5	**The Anglo-Saxons** Was the Anglo-Saxon period really a Dark Age?	**The Vikings** Would the Vikings do anything for money?	**Journeys** What makes people go on a journey?
Year 6	**The Mayan Civilisation** Why should we remember the Maya?	**The Impact of War** Did WW1 or WW2 have the biggest impact on our locality?	**The Ancient Greeks** What did the Greeks do for us?

At Newhall Junior School, History is taught as a discrete subject in every year group. We use the **Rising Stars** scheme as the foundation of our curriculum, ensuring full coverage of the National Curriculum whilst supporting progression in both historical knowledge and disciplinary skills.

Each year group studies three History units across the academic year, including a British History unit which is taught chronologically to develop pupils' understanding of historical periods and their place within a wider timeline. Each unit is centred around a carefully chosen enquiry question, allowing pupils to investigate the past, think critically and develop their understanding through a clear line of enquiry.

Key features of our history curriculum include:

- Three carefully sequenced units in each year group.
- Enquiry-based learning that develops pupils' historical thinking.
- Explicit teaching of historical knowledge, concepts and vocabulary.
- Regular revisiting of key knowledge and skills to support long-term retention.
- Progression in disciplinary skills, including chronology, interpretation, enquiry and the use of historical evidence.
- High-quality professional development and collaborative opportunities to support staff subject knowledge.

- Carefully selected resources that enhance teaching and learning.

All learning begins with the retrieval of prior knowledge. This supports pupils in recalling previous learning, making connections and embedding key concepts over time. Teachers explicitly model historical vocabulary, knowledge and disciplinary skills, helping pupils to integrate new learning into broader historical understanding. Knowledge organisers are used to support pre-teaching, retrieval practice, daily review and home learning, helping pupils retain important knowledge and vocabulary in their long-term memory.

We provide opportunities for pupils to explore, question, discuss and reflect upon the past. Learning is designed to be engaging, immersive and meaningful, fostering positive attitudes towards History. Where appropriate, meaningful links are made across the curriculum through reading, writing, art and other subjects to deepen understanding and provide context. Teachers provide timely verbal and written feedback throughout lessons, enabling misconceptions to be addressed and learning to move forward effectively.

Impact

Children leave Newhall Junior School as curious, critical historians with a chronologically secure knowledge and understanding of British, local and world history. They are confident in discussing continuity and change, cause and consequence, significance and interpretation, making links across the periods of history they have studied. They understand how past events have shaped the world today and can compare and evaluate different historical accounts using evidence and critical thinking.

Pupils gain a coherent knowledge and understanding of Britain's past and that of the wider world. They ask perceptive questions, think critically, weigh evidence and develop informed judgements. They understand the complexity of people's lives, the process of change and the diversity of societies, whilst developing enriched cultural capital through exposure to different periods, civilisations and cultures. Pupils confidently use historical vocabulary and disciplinary concepts in discussion and written work and make meaningful links between local, national and global history.

Through the study of key historical themes, including **invasion, empire, migration, power and civilisation**, pupils develop historical perspective and a deeper understanding of connections across different periods of time. They learn to use primary and secondary sources effectively, draw comparisons, identify patterns and make meaningful connections between historical events and societies.

Regular retrieval opportunities ensure that children retain key knowledge over time, build upon prior learning and develop increasingly sophisticated historical understanding. Books demonstrate clear progression in historical knowledge, vocabulary and enquiry skills, whilst pupil voice reflects positive attitudes towards History and a genuine curiosity about the past. Disadvantaged pupils, pupils with

SEND and higher-attaining pupils are supported and challenged appropriately to ensure strong outcomes for all learners.

Above all, pupils leave Newhall Junior School as enthusiastic historians who are confident in investigating, interpreting and questioning historical events and figures, and who have the knowledge, skills and curiosity to succeed in the next stage of their education.