

History Intent



Key Purpose:

Why is this subject important at Dennington School?

- The past is the key to the present. Learning the history of our country and planet is an exciting story of conquest and conquerors, exploration and adventure, trust and deception. It helps us learn from the successes and failures of our past to shape present and future events.
- History helps pupils to understand the similarities and differences between different cultures and where they fit into the world.
- Through history, children will begin to understand what it means to be a good citizen. Learning our British history will teach children how we got to be where we are today as a society and what our British values mean today.
- Reading and writing skills are built upon when studying our past. History also fosters children's critical thinking skills as they evaluate and interpret the evidence found in different historical sources.

Key Principles:

What are the distinctive ways of knowing, working and learning in this subject at Dennington School?

- Our pupils gain real-life experiences and learn about history in an active and creative way. We bring the curriculum to life in special days at school and trips to our local area. Our pupils have enjoyed re-creating the Great Fire of London in the playground, taking part in an archaeological dig to find and analyse Roman artefacts, visiting an Anglo-Saxon village and spending the day as a Victorian child.
- A wide variety of teaching approaches are used in history lessons to ensure children make good progress and all learning styles are catered for.
- We use historical artefacts and resources to support our teaching.
- We encourage visitors to come into the school and talk about their experiences of events.
- We recognise and value the importance of stories in history teaching and we regard this as an important way of stimulating interest in the past.
- We seek to engage children in a topic by asking them a big question. This is designed to deepen their historical skills, encouraging them to ask their own questions, develop explanations, reach conclusions, make judgements and evaluate what they have learnt.
- All classrooms embrace a learning environment designed to ensure children develop their history knowledge, and are engaged and excited by the subject.
- Subject specific vocabulary is introduced and revisited to expand the terminology used.

Expectations:

What does success look like in this subject?

- Pupils will gain a coherent knowledge and understanding of Britain's past and that of the wider world.
- Pupils will be curious to know more about the past.
- Pupils will ask perceptive questions, think critically, weigh evidence, sift arguments and develop perspective and judgement.
- Pupils will understand the complexity of people's lives, the process of change, the diversity of societies and relationships between different groups, as well as their own identity and the challenges of their time.