



Hillside Primary School

History Curriculum Intent

At Hillside Primary School, our History curriculum is designed to place the needs and aspirations of our pupils at the heart of their learning. Our bespoke curriculum is ambitious and inclusive which empowers every child to be a historian, fostering a deep understanding of the past to help them **"Be the BEST they can be."**

Our History curriculum intent is underpinned by four key attitudes for learning, which ensure our pupils develop the character and resilience needed to thrive in the modern world:

- **Believe**
- **Engage**
- **Succeed**
- **Try**

We deliver a high-quality History curriculum that equips pupils with the Substantive Knowledge (facts and concepts) and Disciplinary Knowledge (the tools of a historian) essential for achieving and exceeding the expected standard. Our curriculum is anchored by six 'Big Ideas' that build progressively. When pupils encounter a Big Idea, they revisit prior units to make connections, building the mental schema required to understand how the past has shaped British and world history.

BELIEVE: Building Confidence & Belonging

- Culture, Community & Religion (Big Ideas): We foster an environment where children believe in their unique potential by exploring how diverse civilisations lived, believed, and shared traditions.
- Vocabulary for success: We believe that vocabulary is the gateway to high achievement. Pupils move from simple language in EYFS to mastering tier-3 terminology such as 'Civilisation', 'Democracy', 'Hieroglyphics' and 'Legislation'.
- Inclusive Achievement: Through pre-teaching, scaffolding, and SEND adaptations, we ensure all pupils—regardless of background—believe they can access Age Related Expectations (ARE) and beyond.

ENGAGE: Curiosity & Connection

- Inventions & Discoveries (Big Idea): We spark curiosity by tracking how new ideas and technologies changed lives, from the creation of Stone Age tools to the Enigma Machine.
- Historical Enquiry (Disciplinary): Pupils engage as active researchers. They move from asking simple questions about images in Key Stage 1 to evaluating the reliability and validity of primary and secondary sources in Key Stage 2.
- Local Identity: Our curriculum draws heavily on our locality. By studying Roman Glevum or the changing face of Southgate Street, children see themselves within the curriculum and connect Gloucester to the wider national story.

SUCCEED: Precision & Mastery

- Chronological Awareness (Big Idea): Success is rooted in a precise mental timeline. Pupils move from simple sequencing (*'before'/'after'*) to mastering BC/AD placing events accurately within and across historical periods.
- Cause & Consequence (Disciplinary): Mastery is shown when pupils can explain *why* events happened and how they impacted later history, such as the Roman withdrawal leading to Anglo-Saxon settlement.
- Substantive Mastery: Pupils succeed when they can compare how different societies were organised, from the Monarchy of 17th-century London to the Democracy of Ancient Greece.

TRY: Resilience & Hard Thinking

- Warfare, Conflict & Invasion (Big Ideas): Pupils embrace "hard thinking" to understand complex turning points, such as the origins of World War II or the impact of Viking raids.
- Historical Significance (Disciplinary): We cultivate a culture where children are not afraid to "try" different interpretations, debating why some events are deemed significant and understanding that different evidence can lead to different conclusions.
- Migration & Trade (Big Ideas): Children develop resilience by studying the challenges faced by those who moved across lands, from Stone Age hunter-gatherers to post-war migration in Britain.

Through this vocabulary-rich, sequential curriculum, Hillside pupils do not just "learn" history; they think like historians, building the character and cultural capital needed to thrive in the modern world.

Hillside 'Big Ideas': Substantive Concepts & Vocabulary

Our Big Ideas act as the "connective tissue" across the curriculum, helping pupils retain crucial knowledge.

Big Idea	Essential Knowledge	Vocabulary Examples
Community & Culture	Architecture, art, and ways of life.	<i>Settlement, Artefact, Diversity, Civilisation.</i>
War, Conflict & Invasion	Reasons for conflict, conquest, and military legacy.	<i>Cavalry, Tactics, Resistance, Occupation.</i>
Migration & Trade	Why people move and how goods are exchanged.	<i>Trade Route, Import, Settler, Economic.</i>
Ideas & Communication	The impact of inventions and transport on society.	<i>Printing Press, Hieroglyphs, Aviation, Radar.</i>
Empire, Power & Government	Rulers, law, democracy, and monarchy.	<i>Democracy, Pharaoh, Sovereignty, Caliphate.</i>
Chronology	How history fits into a time frame	<i>Millennium, BC/AD, Period, Chronological.</i>

Working as a Historian: Disciplinary Progress

Strand	KS1	Lower Key Stage 2 (Y3/4)	Upper Key Stage 2 (Y5/6)
Enquiry	Ask questions about photos and artefacts.	Distinguish between primary/secondary sources.	Evaluate usefulness and identify bias in sources.
Change	Spot old/new things in pictures.	Describe changes over time in relation to Big Ideas.	Justify why things changed or stayed the same over eras.
Similarity	Compare characters from stories.	Contrast lifestyles across different cultures/times.	Explain differences in social class, religion, and race.
Significance	Recognise special events in history.	Evaluate the impact of key people (e.g. Alfred the Great).	Analyse pivotal events and their impact on modern Britain.

History Curriculum: A Knowledge-Rich Sequence

Year	Autumn	Spring	Summer
EYFS	My Life Story & Family	Figures from Stories	Past & Present (Now & Then)
Y1	Families & Toys: Changes in memory.	How we Move: Aviation history.	Beyond Earth: Space travel.
Y2	Great Fire of London: Significance.	Local History: Gloucester's past.	The Titanic: Significant events.
Y3	Stone Age to Iron Age: Pre-history.	The Romans: Impact on Britain.	Roman Legacy: Technology & Beliefs.
Y4	Anglo-Saxons & Scots: Settlement.	Vikings: Raid, Invasion & Law.	Mayan Civilisation: Contrast study.
Y5	Ancient Egypt: Earliest civilisations.	Ancient Greece: Life and Influence.	Local History: A Gloucester street.
Y6	Warfare since 1066: Tactical changes.	WWII: Turning points & Technology.	Glevum: Local History study.