



Working Together, Learning Together, Growing Together

Friendship, Honesty, Perseverance, Positivity, Respect

History Curriculum

Our Curriculum Intent

Our history curriculum is based upon the National Curriculum Programme of Study and the Collins Connected History scheme of work, as well as the TT Education Progression in History document. In order to further personalise our history curriculum, we have considered how our pupils enjoy learning and what they enjoy learning about. Our history curriculum also incorporates visits and visitors to deepen pupil's knowledge, skills and understanding, as well as develop their cultural capital.

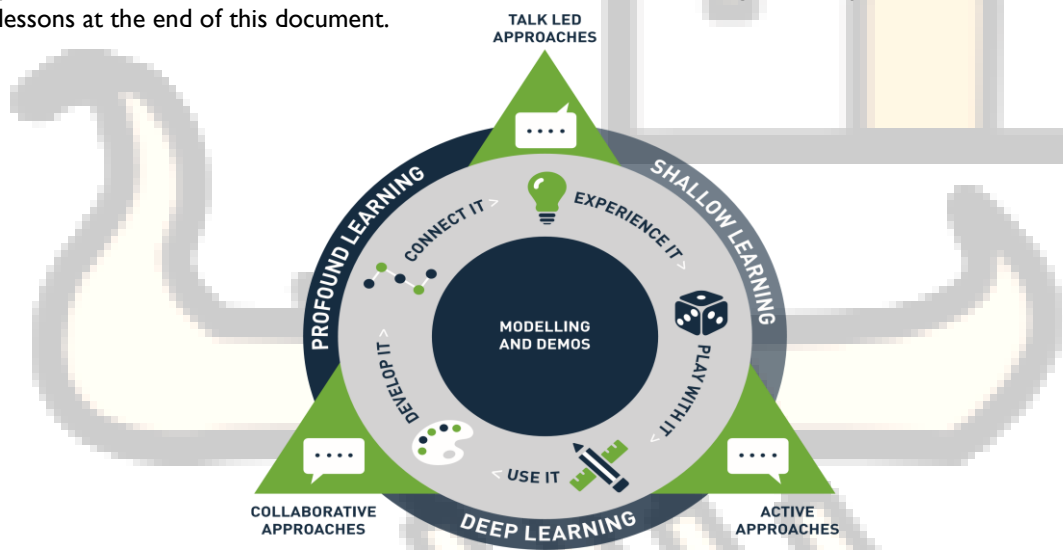
In order to improve our children's understanding of history as a coherent chronological narrative, we have made the decision to teach our KS2 history units in a chronological order in KS2.

National Curriculum Purpose of Study

A high-quality history education will help pupils gain a coherent knowledge and understanding of Britain's past and that of the wider world. It should inspire pupils' curiosity to know more about the past. Teaching should equip pupils to ask perceptive questions, think critically, weigh evidence, sift arguments, and develop perspective and judgement. History helps pupils to 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.

The Path to Success

The path to success is a way of planning teaching sequences created by TT Education, and we have decided to adopt it as part of our history curriculum. You can find more information about the different stages of the path to success and what they look like in history lessons at the end of this document.



What do we want our children to be able to achieve because of their history lessons?

Using the National Curriculum and The Path to Success approach, our sequences of lessons (and history curriculum as a whole) will give the opportunity for pupils to:

- use research to find out about periods of time or historical figures;
- ask questions about the past;
- understand how to work like a historian to interpret the past;
- develop the knowledge of how to evidence their learning and thinking 'as historians';
- place events and people coherently within a chronological context;
- learn about how the skills they have learnt could be used in the wider curriculum and world e.g. potential careers.



What do good history lessons at Whitmore look like?

Good history teaching at Whitmore should include:

- opportunities for speaking and listening;
- clear and explicit links to prior learning so that children are able to make connections with what they have previously been taught;
- high expectations of pupils, including quality and quantity of work and behaviour standards;
- a suitable level of challenge for all children so they can improve their confidence and resilience;
- a mixture of activity types so children can improve their attention and focus;
- chances to become independent learners;
- use of TT Education's 'Path to Success' approach.

Curriculum Implementation

What are we doing to ensure we achieve the aims we have set for ourselves?

We have used the TT Education objectives and the National Curriculum to help us create a set of disciplinary knowledge – these are skills that our children need to have in order to be a successful historian. Our disciplinary skills are generic, in that they can potentially be applied to any unit of history teaching, and progressive across the school. We have mapped the disciplinary skills to the units we teach so that our staff can plan and teach their lessons effectively.

Using the Collins Connected Curriculum, we have also created substantive knowledge for each history unit we teach. These are specific to each unit, and ensure that our children learn the key knowledge about each period of history they are learning about. We have chosen our substantive knowledge carefully to ensure that children increase their cultural capital and understand the key information about the periods of history they are learning about. These objectives are carefully worded so as not to reveal the knowledge before the children are taught it. As an example, a good substantive knowledge objective would say 'I know why the Egyptians built pyramids' instead of saying 'I know the pyramids were tombs for pharaohs'.

All of our disciplinary skills and substantive knowledge can be found in our [history progression document](#). The term-by-term mapping of these objectives can be found in the [history overview document](#).

Substantive concepts

We have a range of substantive concepts, or themes, running throughout our history curriculum. These are major abstract nouns that crop up again and again in history teaching, and are designed to allow the children to make links and connections across the different periods of time that they study, both at Whitmore and beyond. The substantive concepts we have chosen to focus on are:

- Civilisation;
- Class;
- Empire;
- Migration;
- Power;
- Trade.



Discussion points based on these substantive concepts are on children's knowledge organisers, and in the [progression](#) and [overview](#) documents. As the children progress throughout the school, they will be able to create a mental schema around each of these concepts, using learning from across their time at our school. This example schema for civilisation has been created by the Historical Association.

Vocabulary

Each unit has a selection of key vocabulary that children are expected to know and use in their speaking and writing. These words are key words that relate to the unit, but have also been chosen to help enhance children's wider knowledge of the world and increase their cultural capital. We have also used the TT Education vocabulary lists to help us create year group sets of vocabulary that children can use for talking about history, and for ordering and chronology. In history lessons, all the key vocabulary that children need is easily accessible on their knowledge organisers.



Visuals

Using well-designed visuals in the classroom helps children's retention of knowledge and improves their engagement with their learning. It is for these reasons that we have chosen to use symbols from Widgeo to represent every unit-specific piece of vocabulary, every substantive concept, and the vocabulary for talking and ordering. We have identified our children's speech and language as a weakness across the school, so the strong and consistent use of visuals will enable our children to use more advanced vocabulary in their speaking and writing. We also use colour coding as a visual cue for children on our knowledge organisers – the orange colour scheme matches the colour of our children's history books.

Knowledge Organisers

Every history unit has a single-page knowledge organiser. On these, the Super 6 take pride of place, next to a place where the children are able to RAG-rate how well they have done for that objective. The key vocabulary for the unit and substantive concepts are clearly labeled, alongside the Widgeo symbol that corresponds to that word or concept. In addition, each history knowledge organiser has a timeline of the key events relating to the unit, as well as pictures and key questions for the children to consider. All our current knowledge organisers can be found on our [website](#).

Curriculum Impact

Assessment and the 'Super 6'



Each unit has six objectives, and these are a combination of disciplinary skills and substantive knowledge. These objectives are shared with the children throughout their learning, and form the basis of our planning and teaching. At the end of each unit, the children will assess themselves against their six objectives, so that they are able to feel an ownership and responsibility for their own learning. Children should know, or be able to easily check, their 'Super 6' for each history unit using their knowledge organiser.

How do we know if we are achieving our aims?

Teachers record assessment using a simple one-page assessment grid. At the end of each term, teachers will RAG-rate the objectives they have taught, and decide if children are currently working at, above, or below age-related expectations. The RAG-rating of objectives will be used to inform and enhance future planning and teaching. The history subject lead will also look at the termly assessments, and offer appropriate advice to teachers where necessary. At the end of each year, data is added onto Insight, which is the assessment tool we use for internal data collection. Teachers use their termly data to help them decide a final judgment for each child's attainment – children are assessed as working at, above, or below age-related expectations.

Where termly aims have not been achieved, teaching is adapted in subsequent terms to ensure that children do not miss vital knowledge and skills.



Appendix I

The Path to Success

Stage 1: Experience it

Pupils need **rich experiences** which they can relate to in order to support them in developing a particular skill set. For example, how can you expect a pupil to use relative clauses in a newspaper report if they have never really experienced this before in any type of meaningful context? The challenge for us as teachers is to find a way to replicate this meaningful experience and practical application in the classroom.

“Hook, Experience, Context and Purpose” We ask teachers to think back to the last unit or topic they taught and then to consider the four elements of the mantra. What was the hook you used to engage, inspire and excite your pupils? What experiences did pupils bring to the activity, or how were you able to replicate experiences to make the learning link to the real world? Did you choose a context which was relevant and did all the pupils have a clear purpose for their learning, or was it simply ‘complete the activities on page 10’?

Stage 2: Play with it

This refers to the **Gamification of Learning**. The power of playing short burst games to practise key skills on a daily basis should not be underestimated. Not only do they act as a hook to excite, engage and challenge the pupils but they also support pupils in developing fluency in a particular skill: procedural efficiency alongside conceptual understanding.

Stage 3: Use It

Once pupils have experienced a particular skill and had an opportunity to play with it in order to fully assimilate the technique, they then move on to use it in context. Practical application in context is key to successful outcomes for pupils.

“Tell me and I’ll forget; show me and I may remember; involve me and I’ll understand.” Chinese proverb

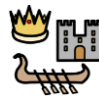
Stage 4: Develop it

Pupils continue to develop the skill in context. It is absolutely crucial that all adults within the classroom, and within the school at large, position themselves alongside the pupils as learners, actively engaging in the learning process. High quality modelling and demonstration should be underpinned by **an active, talk-led, collaborative learning climate**, in which pupils move from learners to teachers. If a pupil can teach a particular skill, it means they must have learnt it and are more likely to remember it. As practitioners, we should be aiming to move all our pupils into becoming teachers. If a pupil can confidently demonstrate the level of understanding necessary for them to be able to explain and teach a concept, idea or approach to another pupil, then in doing so they are demonstrating that their initial learning has been internalised and embedded. By this stage they are demonstrating a move from shallow surface-level learning to deeper learning and understanding.

Step 5: Connect It

This refers to pupils making connections across the curriculum. With a deeper understanding, pupils will begin to make links and connections in terms of how they could apply the skill or concept they have just learnt across the curriculum and in the wider world. Making these connections and exploring possible connections moves the pupil from deep learning into profound learning, which will stay with them forever.

This circular approach then repeats as new skills, concepts and ideas are added. This whole approach is underpinned by talk-led, active and collaborative approaches, which provide the foundation for success.



What does the Path to Success look like in history?

This diagram shows some ways in which the Path to Success can be incorporated into a teaching sequence in history. This is not a comprehensive list of the ideas that we use, but some possible examples of activities that may fit into our sequences of teaching.

Step 5: Connect it!

- Use 'reading skills' language in history
- Link existing learning to previous 'topics' so pupils can see chronology and progression
- Use 'history skills' vocabulary as a thread to all history lessons
- Link the subject topics to a range of core and foundation lessons you are working on at the same time
- Utilise history themes as stimuli for writing and maths outcomes

Step 1: Experience it

- Give pupils 'real' experiences, by inviting in local residents who can explore what 'in living memory' looks like for them
- Choose texts that coincide with the historical period (e.g. Rose Blanch - WWII)
- Use research, technology, apps that allow pupils to access artefacts, accounts, reports from the time (where possible)
- Trips, visits, visitors, re-enactment
- Use vocabulary walls and displays to enhance the learning language environment

Step 4: Develop it

- Collaborate!
- Pupils discussing multiple sources, looking at veracity and reliability
- Discuss morality, right and wrong, crime and punishment
- Use activities to enhance vocabulary application and use of history-based language
- Challenge, set tasks that require pupils to 'teach' about a period or aspects of 'being a historian'

Step 2: Play with it

- Word association games
- Role play as a historical character
- 'Hot-seat' interviews
- Apply 'how would a historian...' thinking across the curriculum and outside of class time
- Play time machines - where would you go, and why?
- History 'flash' - one day a week, share something historically astounding

Step 3: Use it

- With literacy requirements as a vehicle, and history periods as a stimulus, explore with pupils how they can evidence their learning and thinking 'as historians'
- Evidence learning: pictures, videos, scripts, diaries, posters, recounts - variety is the key, cross-curricular is the method to cut excessive duplication.

