

British Values in History at Highworth Warneford School.

The history curriculum at KS3 & 4 has always encompassed the core themes that are associated with 'British Values.' Thus within the classroom all teachers foster & promote tolerance, respect for diversity, fairness, democracy & individual responsibility. Our curriculum enables students to explore & develop an understanding of diversity, hence studying causation & that people behave differently in different situations. Examining historical interpretations encourages students to understand that there are a myriad of opinions & these can be evaluated by looking at the evidence & by using reasoning skills. History is about carefully weighing up the evidence before reaching a decision which should be balanced & supported. Students begin to understand how people in the past behaved as they did & the impact their actions have had on modern society. Hence fostering analytical & critical thinking skills, ensuring a deeper more nuanced understanding of our society & our role nationally & internationally.

At KS3 we study 'Native Americans' in Yr7 & look at how different cultures were treated in the past & how the Native American way of life was systematically destroyed. Thus emphasising the importance of mutual respect & tolerance towards different cultures & beliefs, in addition that attitudes & values change over time. Within our 'Medieval Britain 1066-1509' module we examine the role of the monarchy & succession, in addition the establishment of the rule of law & how society was organised. In Yr8 we examine religious beliefs, persecution & changes during the Tudor & Stuart reigns 1509-1745, also the struggles between the church & crown. We consider the diplomatic relationships between the UK & other countries. The English Civil War is an ideal opportunity to look at causation & to explore democracy. In Yr9 we focus on key turning points including the Industrial Revolution, followed by conflict & developments in the 20th century. Hence we consider the extension of the franchise & electoral reform, furthermore the impact of 19th century social reform. Looking at the struggles that our forbears had to undergo to be able to gain the power to vote encourages students to value & participate in the political system & the way our country is run. In addition an awareness of the importance of individual liberty & the resulting responsibilities that accompany this. Studying modules on the British Empire & slavery is an ideal platform for examining mutual respect & individual liberty, whilst looking at changing attitudes & how these were enshrined legally.

At GCSE & in Yr9 we study World War One & Two & why these events were so significant. This covers long & short term causation. We also consider the role of peacekeeping. The establishment of the League of Nations is an ideal opportunity to reflect upon & assess the historical achievements & failures of international diplomacy & peacekeeping initiatives, reinforcing that decision making is complex & fraught with dangers. History is uniquely placed to investigate the big questions & challenges that societies have faced & arguably to point to possible solutions. Historians realise that events are never simple & that our history shapes modern Britain. The curriculum also includes modules on Nazi Germany & the growth of fascism in Europe, thus comparing & contrasting different political systems & their impact on peoples lives. Students also reach an appreciation that living under the rule of law should provide protection for individual citizens & their liberties. The GCSE syllabus also includes Norman England & this encompasses how William I established control via government & the changes that were introduced in terms of law & order. We also examine the Norman Church & monasticism looking at beliefs & action. We also study a module on 'Britain: Health & the People c790—Present Day.' This considers the changes in public health & the role of governmental & local councils in initiating changes. It analyses the factors involved in medical developments & improvements. This goes up to the present day & allows students to explore why the NHS was set up after the Second World War. Thus exploring the responsibilities & role of the state versus individual responsibility for public health. This thematic study also investigates the roles of global scientists & doctors in expanding medical knowledge & contributing towards medical progress.

Providing a historical context is essential in enabling students to understand how & why changes happen & evaluate their impact. Thus looking at key events & the achievements of historical figures allows students to develop a greater insight into how our country has evolved & developed our set of fundamental values. British values are securely embedded in the History curriculum at all stages.