

History at Fairfield's contributes to children's 'Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural' (SMSC) development in a number of ways.

SPIRITUAL – The study of History involves a sense of curiosity, fascination and the mystery of how and why events in the past happened. Artefacts give children a tangible sense of the past, and aid children in understanding the people who produced and used these objects, bringing them closer to an understanding of past civilisations. Our many history workshops and visits to museums enable the children to get up close to these artefacts and learn through these enlightening experiences. Children are encouraged to explore the role played by notable individuals, in shaping the world in which we all live. Children reflect upon different interpretations of the past and how these interpretations have been arrived at.

MORAL – Children consider and comment on moral questions and dilemmas, appreciating the viewpoints of others. Events and beliefs in the past will often be at odds with what we would consider acceptable today. Children are encouraged to show compassion for people facing past dilemmas (e.g. life as a WWII Evacuee) and to empathise with decisions which people made in the past, and the reasoning behind those decisions. Notions of right and wrong are explored in connection with events from the past, linking with the values of justice and truth.

SOCIAL – Children explore the similarities and contrasts between past and present societies. They examine how other civilisations, cultures and societies have impacted on the development of our own culture. Children are also encouraged to build up their own social development through problem-solving in a collaborative way and through team-working activities. The study of social issues in past societies is a common theme in History lessons. The children also discuss and evaluate the qualities, skills and attitudes of famous people from the past.

CULTURAL – Children study and are encouraged to gain an understanding of, and empathise with, people from different cultural backgrounds. They will examine how other cultures have had an impact on the development of their own culture and heritage. Children develop a better understanding of our multicultural society through studying links between local, British, European and world history.