

History at Junior and Leaving Certificate Level

History at Junior and Leaving Certificate level is a skills-based subject that equips students with critical tools for understanding both the past and the present. At our school, students learn how to research effectively, analyse evidence, identify bias, and evaluate the reliability of sources. These skills extend beyond the classroom and are essential in today's digital world, where misinformation is increasingly common. The curriculum places a strong emphasis on historical enquiry and interpretation:

- In the Junior Cycle, students explore topics such as the causes and consequences of the 1916 Rising and complete a Classroom-Based Assessment (CBA) where they investigate a topic of personal interest using both primary and secondary sources.
- At Leaving Certificate level, students study key topics like the Rise of Dictators in Europe and the foundation of the Irish State. They also complete a Research Study Report, which develops independent research and academic writing skills.

Connecting History to the Present

History isn't just about the past—it helps us understand what's happening in the world today. Many current events have links to things that happened before, especially in the 20th century.

Dictators like Hitler and Mussolini came to power during times of crisis. They used fear, strong speeches, and control of the media to gain support. Learning about them helps us spot warning signs in today's politics and understand how democracy can be challenged.



The Cold War was a time when countries like the USA and the Soviet Union were in conflict without fighting directly. It helps us understand today's tensions between powerful countries like the USA, Russia, and China, and why peace talks and global cooperation are still important.



The Civil Rights Movement shows how people stood up for equality and justice. These stories help us understand modern protests and movements that fight racism and unfair treatment.



Ireland's struggle for independence and the peace process in Northern Ireland teach us about identity, conflict, and how peace can be built over time. These lessons are useful when looking at conflicts around the world today.



The War in Ukraine, which started in 2022, reminds us of events before World War II, when countries like Nazi Germany invaded their neighbours. Russia's invasion of Ukraine shows why freedom, resistance, and support from other countries matter. It also helps us understand how history can repeat itself if we don't learn from it.

By linking past events to today's world, history helps students think clearly, ask good questions, and become active, informed citizens.