

Caldershaw and St Andrew's Primary School become first schools in Rochdale to gain the Heritage Schools Award.

What is the Heritage Schools Award?

Historic England's Heritage Schools programme is a national programme, funded by the Department for Education, to support schools in exploring their local history and heritage. Rochdale is an Historic England designated Heritage Action Zone and the town was also selected to be part of the award winning Heritage Schools programme

The Heritage Schools Award is presented to schools that have taken part in the Heritage Schools programme and have shown that they have embedded local history into the school's curriculum.

What have Caldershaw and St Andrew's been up to?

As part of Heritage Schools, students from Caldershaw Primary School and St Andrew's C of E Primary School have been doing lots of exciting work to find out about their local history. At Caldershaw children have been learning about listed buildings in their area. Meanwhile young people at St Andrew's have been busy finding out about key buildings such as the former Birch Hill Hospital.

Lead Teacher Jeni Smith from St Andrews said *"It has been fantastic to see the children so excited about the history on their doorstep!* Whilst Jessica Traynor from Caldershaw explained, *"Teaching and learning about local history and heritage is something we will carry on doing in future years because we've seen how much the children enjoy it and find it interesting"*

The Award Ceremony

As the first two schools in Rochdale to gain the national Heritage Schools Award, children and teachers from Caldershaw and St Andrews attended a special award ceremony at Rochdale Pioneers museum on Wednesday 16th October. The award was presented to them by Cllr Janet Emsley who said she was *"delighted that the next generation are finding about, and appreciating, their local heritage"*

Daisy Horsley, Manager of the HS programme in the NW, said *"We are incredibly impressed with the work that students have done at Caldershaw and St Andrews. It's great to see children engaging with their local heritage and getting excited about the history of where they live. With several other schools taking part in the Heritage Schools programme in Rochdale, we are looking forward to awarding more plaques in the near future!"*

Find out more

Historic England Heritage Action Zones <https://historicengland.org.uk/services-skills/heritage-action-zones/>

Historic England Heritage Schools programme <https://historicengland.org.uk/services-skills/education/heritage-schools/>