Local History for Year 1

Highbury Hall & Park

Year 1 Lesson Plan: Discovering Highbury Hall & Park
Subjects: History (Local Study) & Art
Year Group: Year 1 (Key Stage 1)
Theme: People and Places in Our Local Area
Focus: Highbury Hall & Park – Who lived there and why it is special

Learning Objectives

By the end of the lesson and visit, children will:

- Recognise that Highbury Hall is a special building in their local area.
- Know that a man named Joseph Chamberlain lived there a long time ago.
- Talk about what buildings looked like in the past (Victorian times).
- Create a simple artwork inspired by the hall or gardens.
- Ask questions and share what they saw and liked.

Lesson Duration

Pre-visit classroom lesson: 45 minutes
Visit to Highbury Hall & Park: Half-day (approx. 3 hours)
Post-visit activity: 45 minutes

1. Pre-Visit Lesson (Classroom – 45 minutes)

Starter (10 minutes)
Ask the class if they like visiting parks?
Do they know how special Birmingham is to have so many green spaces.
Talk about what we like to do in the Park

Main Input (15 minutes)

- Introduce Joseph Chamberlain as a very important man who helped Birmingham (e.g., made schools and parks).
- Show a simple picture timeline: "Then and Now."
- Show a picture of a Victorian house and compare it with modern homes.

Activity (15 minutes)

Create a simple class "Wonder Wall" – What we wonder about Highbury Hall.

2. **Visit to Highbury Hall & Park (3 hours) - this must be prebooked**

Tour of Highbury Hall (50 minutes)

- Walk through the building with a guide.
- Look for interesting shapes, windows, doors, and decorations.
- Listen to a short story about Joseph Chamberlain and his family.

Garden Walk & Sketching (30 minutes)

- Walk in the park and garden.
- Sit and sketch a tree, flower, or part of the building.

Snack & Circle Time Reflection Before Leaving (15 minutes)

where possible we will provide food grown at Highbury e.g an apple

- Snack outdoors (weather permitting).
- Share: "What did you see? What did you like best?" "What did we learn about this place?" "Why do you think it's important?"

3. Post-Visit Activity (Classroom – 45 minutes)

Art Activity (30 minutes)

Use sketches or photos from the visit to make a simple artwork: e.g., paint or collage of the building or garden.

Children can use bricks, arches, windows in their designs.

Speaking & Sharing (15 minutes)

Sit in a circle and share their artwork and say:

"I saw…" "I liked…" "This is a picture of…"

Resources Needed

Photos of Highbury Hall (then and now)

Simple timeline (Joseph Chamberlain)

Sketchbooks and pencils for visit

Art materials (paint, glue, collage)

Assessment Opportunities

Observe children during discussions for understanding of past and present.

Check artwork and sketches for recognition of building features.

Listen for use of new words (e.g., old, special, Joseph Chamberlain).

Key Vocabulary

Old / New

Past / Now

Special

Joseph Chamberlain

Garden

Sketch / Draw

Highbury Hall & Park