Programmes of study for history, Key Stage 2 and Key Stage 3

Aims
The National Curriculum for history from 2014 aims to ensure that all pupils:

- Know and understand the history of these islands as coherent chronological narrative, from the earliest times to the present day; how people’s lives have shaped this nation and how Britain has influenced and been influenced by the wider world.

  Development education criteria: familiarise them with the concepts of interdependence

- Know and understand significant aspects of the history of the wider world; the nature of ancient civilisations; the expansion and dissolution of empires; characteristic features of past non-European societies; achievements and follies of mankind.

  Development education criteria: knowledge of developing countries, their economies, histories and human geography

- Gain and deploy a historically-grounded understanding of abstract terms such as ‘empire’ ‘civilisation’ ‘parliament’ and ‘peasantry’.

- Understand historical concepts such as continuity and change, cause and consequence, similarity, difference and significance, and use them to make connections, draw contrasts, analyse trends, frame historically-valid questions and create their own structured accounts, including written narratives and analyses.

- Understand the methods of historical enquiry, including how evidence is used rigorously to make historical claims, and discern how and why contrasting arguments and interpretations of the past have been constructed.

- Gain historical perspective by placing their growing knowledge into different contexts, understanding the connections between local, regional, national and international history; between cultural, economic, military, political, religious and social history; and between short-term and long-term timescales.