

Subject Curriculum Vision:

The History Curriculum at AJK

INTENT

Why should all students learn this subject?

Studying the past provides pupils with the opportunity to understand the world today. History also equips pupils with important skills, including the ability to ask perceptive questions, think critically, weigh evidence and develop judgement. Through their studies, pupils at AJK are exposed to a wide range of societies across extended periods of time. These studies help pupils to appreciate the diversity and complexity of human life, while also emphasising continuities and similarities throughout time.

All units are structured to encourage historical modes of thought. In KS1, pupils begin by studying time periods within living history in Year 1. In Year 2, they begin to explore events beyond living history, focusing on important national events (such as the Great Fire of London) and the lives of significant individuals. In KS2, pupils study units chronologically, beginning with Prehistoric Britain. The one exception is their study of Ancient Egypt in Year 6, which deals with issues of historical interpretation. Throughout their time in KS2, pupils are exposed to a range of British and global history.

What is the core knowledge in this subject?

To develop pupils' ability to think like historians, they are exposed to the following disciplinary concepts:

- Continuity and change (in and between periods)
- Cause and consequence
- Similarity and difference (within a period)
- Significance

In KS2, units are (with the exception of a Year 6 topic on Ancient Egypt, that is designed to introduce pupils more explicitly to historical interpretation) arranged chronologically. This is intended to provide pupils with a secure understanding of when periods happen in relation to each other, as well as to develop a sense of the characteristic features of each period.

IMPLEMENTATION

How is this subject taught at AJK?

History units of work are structured around an enquiry question. These questions are designed to focus on one of the disciplinary concepts listed above.

In KS1, pupils study history every other term, on rotation with geography. In KS2, they study history for an hour every week. Each KS2 unit includes 6 knowledge-building lessons, which conclude with pupils planning and writing a short essay to answer the enquiry question. They then have two 'meanwhile, elsewhere' lessons, in which they explore events in other parts of the world at a similar time period to their current unit. Where possible, each unit includes an enrichment opportunity – whether a workshop in school, or an external trip.

What are the key ways students practise in this subject?

During history lessons, pupils read or listen to short chunks of information before practising in the following main ways:

- Partner talk
- Think-pair-share
- Answering multiple-choice and true or false questions
- Annotating diagrams or images
- Acting out historical events

- Analysing sources
- Class discussion
- Independent writing

IMPACT

What does assessment look like in this subject?

Teachers assess pupils' understanding during lessons. Each lesson begins with a mini quiz, designed to revisit key knowledge from previous lessons, units and year groups. These quizzes provide further formative opportunities to assess learning over time. End-of-unit responses to the enquiry question are used to gauge historical understanding, and are reviewed by school leaders to assist in determining future alterations to the curriculum.



UNIT OVERVIEW

	Autumn	Spring	Summer
Year 1	Toys: Now and Then	Travel and Transport	Our Seaside: Now and Then
Year 2	Explorers and Exploration	The Great Fire of London	They Made a Difference
Year 3	Prehistoric Britain	Early Civilisations	The Legacy of Ancient Greece
Year 4	The Roman Empire	Roman Britain	The Benin Kingdom
Year 5	Anglo-Saxon and Viking Invasions	The Islamic Golden Age	The Victorians and the Industrial Revolution
Year 6	Ancient Egypt	The World Wars	A History of Protest