History Knowledge Progression

Knowledge Strand	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6
Chronological Knowledge	Understand that the Stone Age, Bronze Age, Iron Age and Roman periods occurred in sequence and form part of Britain's history.	Understand how Anglo-Saxon, Viking and Ancient Greek civilisations fit into a broader chronological framework.	Understand where the Maya civilisation and local history studies fit within British and world history.	Understand how Ancient Egypt and Crime & Punishment fit into a wider historical narrative and compare developments across periods.
Settlement and Society	Understand how people lived during prehistoric Britain and Roman Britain, including homes, farming and communities.	Understand Anglo-Saxon and Viking settlements and the organisation of Greek society.	Understand the structure of Mayan society and how local communities have changed over time.	Understand Ancient Egyptian social hierarchy and how communities have been influenced by changing laws and justice systems.
Power and Leadership	Understand the role of tribal leaders, Roman emperors and the Roman army.	Understand Anglo-Saxon kings, Viking rulers and the origins of democracy in Ancient Greece.	Understand the role of Mayan rulers and leadership within local communities.	Understand the role of Pharaohs and the development of systems of law and justice.
Religion and Beliefs	Understand how beliefs influenced life in prehistoric Britain and the Roman Empire.	Understand the impact of Christianity on Anglo-Saxon Britain and the importance of Greek gods and beliefs.	Understand the significance of religion in Mayan civilisation.	Understand Ancient Egyptian beliefs about the afterlife and how beliefs have influenced justice throughout history.
Conflict, Invasion and Empire	Understand why the Romans invaded Britain and the impact of Roman rule.	Understand Viking raids, invasions and Anglo-Saxon resistance.	Understand how civilisations expanded and maintained influence.	Understand how laws and punishments were used to maintain order and control.
Achievement and Innovation	Understand key developments including farming, metalworking and Roman engineering.	Understand the achievements of Ancient Greece including democracy, philosophy and the Olympics.	Understand Mayan achievements in mathematics, astronomy and architecture.	Understand Egyptian achievements in engineering, writing and civilisation.
Legacy and Impact	Understand how prehistoric and Roman Britain influenced later society.	Understand the lasting impact of Anglo-Saxon, Viking and Greek contributions.	Understand the legacy of the Maya civilisation and local historical developments.	Understand how Ancient Egypt and developments in Crime & Punishment have shaped modern society.
Local History	Explore how the local area has changed over time through evidence and artefacts.	Make links between national events and local history.	Study the history of Gatwick and its impact on the local area.	Evaluate how local, national and global events have influenced modern Britain.
Historical Concepts	Begin to understand change, continuity, cause and consequence.	Develop understanding of significance, similarity and difference.	Apply historical concepts across different civilisations.	Use historical concepts confidently to explain, analyse and evaluate the past.

End of Key Stage 2 Historical Knowledge

By the end of Year 6, pupils should know:

- How Britain developed from the Stone Age through to the Anglo-Saxon and Viking periods.
- The significance of the Roman Empire and its impact on Britain.
- The achievements and influence of Ancient Greece, the Maya and Ancient Egypt.
- How civilisations have been organised through systems of government, religion and society.
- How trade, migration, invasion and settlement have shaped societies.
- How crime and punishment have changed over time.
- How historians use evidence to build understanding of the past.
- How historical events and developments continue to influence modern Britain and the wider world.

History Skills Progression

Skill Area	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6
Chronological Understanding	Sequence periods studied (Stone Age, Bronze Age, Iron Age, Romans) and use terms such as before, after, past and present.	Place Anglo-Saxons, Vikings and Ancient Greeks on a timeline and understand where they fit within British and world history.	Compare civilisations studied and identify overlap between periods and societies.	Make connections across different historical periods and explain long-term developments over time.
Historical Enquiry	Ask simple questions about the past and use sources to find answers.	Ask increasingly complex questions and select information from different sources.	Plan lines of enquiry and use a range of evidence to investigate historical questions.	Develop and answer complex historical questions using evidence from multiple sources.
Using Sources and Evidence	Use artefacts, pictures and simple written sources to learn about the past.	Compare different types of sources and extract relevant information.	Identify primary and secondary sources and select evidence independently.	Evaluate the reliability, usefulness and limitations of sources.
Historical Interpretations	Recognise that the past can be represented in different ways.	Understand that historians may have different views about events.	Compare different historical interpretations and identify reasons for differences.	Evaluate competing interpretations using evidence and contextual knowledge.
Cause and Consequence	Identify simple causes and effects of historical events.	Explain why events happened and describe their consequences.	Recognise that events often have multiple causes and consequences.	Evaluate the relative importance of different causes and consequences.
Continuity and Change	Identify things that have changed and things that have remained the same.	Describe changes within and across periods studied.	Explain patterns of continuity and change across time.	Analyse why changes occurred and evaluate their significance.
Similarity and Difference	Compare daily life in different historical periods.	Describe similarities and differences between societies and cultures.	Explain similarities and differences using historical evidence.	Analyse reasons for similarities and differences between civilisations and periods.
Historical Significance	Identify important people, events and achievements.	Explain why people, events or developments were important.	Assess significance using evidence and historical context.	Explain and justify why some events, people and developments are considered historically significant.
Communication and Argument	Present simple historical findings using basic historical vocabulary.	Communicate findings in chronological order using subject-specific vocabulary.	Construct explanations using evidence to support ideas.	Develop balanced historical arguments supported by evidence from multiple sources.
Historical Vocabulary	Use terms such as artefact, chronology, source and evidence accurately.	Use increasingly sophisticated subject vocabulary when discussing historical events.	Apply disciplinary vocabulary confidently in discussion and writing.	Select and use precise historical vocabulary to explain, evaluate and justify historical understanding.

End of Key Stage 2 Historian

By the end of Year 6, pupils should be able to:

- Place periods and events accurately within a broader chronological framework.
- Use a range of sources critically to answer historical questions.
- Explain causes, consequences, continuity and change.
- Compare societies, cultures and civilisations across time.
- Evaluate historical significance and interpretations.
- Construct evidence-based historical arguments.
- Use precise historical vocabulary confidently and accurately.

History Vocabulary Progression

Strand	Year 3 (Stone Age, Bronze Age, Iron Age, Romans)	Year 4 (Anglo-Saxons, Vikings, Ancient Greece)	Year 5 (Mayans, Local History)	Year 6 (Ancient Egypt, Crime & Punishment)
Chronology	past, present, chronology, prehistory, BC, AD, decade, century	timeline, era, period, invasion, settlement	civilisation, legacy, chronology, ancient, modern	chronology, continuity, change, historical development, long-term impact
Society & Daily Life	hunter-gatherer, tribe, settlement, farming, roundhouse, community	kingdom, monarch, village, warrior, citizen	civilisation, city-state, hierarchy, culture	scribe, peasant, noble, society, social class
Power & Government	emperor, empire, conquest, ruler, army	king, kingdom, law, democracy, government	ruler, authority, leadership	pharaoh, dynasty, monarchy, justice, authority
Religion & Beliefs	ritual, belief, worship, sacred	pagan, Christianity, monastery, gods	sacrifice, temple, worship	afterlife, mummification, tomb, deity, preservation
Conflict & Invasion	invasion, conquer, defence, army, rebellion	raid, invasion, warrior, conquest, resistance	conflict, expansion	punishment, crime, law enforcement, deterrent
Historical Enquiry	source, evidence, artefact, archaeologist, excavation	reliability, interpretation, account, viewpoint	primary source, secondary source, research, significance	bias, validity, inference, conclusion, interpretation
Cause & Consequence	cause, consequence, change	influence, impact, consequence	factor, effect, achievement	significance, consequence, legacy, turning point
Similarity & Difference	compare, similar, different	contrast, characteristic	diversity, culture, tradition	continuity, change, development
Settlement & Trade	settlement, farming, trade	settlement, migration, community	trade route, merchant, economy	civilisation, resource, taxation
Legacy & Significance	monument, achievement, innovation	legacy, influence, contribution	innovation, significance	heritage, preservation, legacy, impact

Tier 3 Vocabulary by Disciplinary Concept

Concept	Vocabulary
Chronology	chronology, timeline, era, period, century, decade, BC, AD
Cause & Consequence	cause, consequence, effect, impact, factor, influence
Similarity & Difference	compare, contrast, similar, different, characteristic
Continuity & Change	continuity, change, development, progress, decline
Significance	significance, achievement, contribution, influence, legacy
Historical Enquiry	source, evidence, artefact, inference, reliability, validity
Interpretations	interpretation, viewpoint, bias, account, perspective