

Curriculum intent statement: History

“History is not just a sequence of events. History is our compass, guiding us as we navigate our complex world. It reminds us of our origins, enlightens our present, and projects the possibilities of our future.”

We believe an understanding of the past; both in Britain, Europe and the world, will equip our students to be powerful, conscientious and astute future citizens of society. The mastery of chronology, source analysis, an awareness of causation and the ability to interpret historical events will allow students to speak with conviction and make comparisons with current world events. History at All Hallows will also instil in our students a confidence to speak and articulate their thoughts. In line with the core values of honourable purpose and stewardship, our students will discover different cultures, traditions and modes of government on their historical journeys. This will allow them to make connections, draw contrasts, and analyse trends within periods and over long arcs of time. Above all, students will see how there are different versions of one story; how an event has been portrayed to the public and critically evaluate why people disagree about historical events. Throughout their journey studying history, students will build confidence in their analysis of contemporary sources and historical scholarship that is embedded throughout our curriculum. The National Curriculum forms the basis for our curriculum at KS3 and 4 with an emphasis on range and depth of historical knowledge. This will provide a safety-net for the different experiences students have encountered at KS2. Consequently, our students will discover Early Medieval, Medieval, Early Modern and Modern historical topics, ranging from the Anglo-Saxons to the collapse of the USSR. We also believe in a wider chronological period being covered at the beginning of study in the ‘Why do historians disagree topic?’, to give students an appreciation and sense of chronology at the same time as developing oracy skills. At KS5 we offer a combination Medieval and Modern A Level History course using the AQA syllabuses which we believe represent the breadth of years and topics students should study and which allow students to produce high-level academic essays in preparation for university.

We would in addition like to emphasise the following:

- History does not work in isolation: all subjects within school have powerful links to historical concepts, and we endeavour to work on a cross-curricular basis in our schemes of work.
- The importance of local history, in particular, the Silk Trade and the Industrial Revolution to Macclesfield.
- A curriculum that covers ethnically diverse topics to enable our students to see and think beyond their local community; Macclesfield does not always represent the wider multicultural society we live in.
- An awareness of current national political issues to not only make historical links and comparison but develop PSHE and citizenship.
- At KS4 topics will be taught by interleaving rather than linear to help with knowledge retention, to reflect the significant number of students who join us mid-year.
- In unison with English, we would like to highlight the importance of developing students’ abilities to read critically from a variety of mediums, when confronted with ‘information’ in our digital age.