

School Curriculum Subject Guide

Humanities

(last updated in June 2016)

Aims

Humanities is taught by class teachers, supported by their class teams. Students experience a wide range of teaching and learning styles with appropriate resources. Geography and History are taught as discrete subjects at Key Stage 1, 2, 3 and 4, following the school humanities curriculum, based on the EQUALS Schemes of Work. New rolling Programmes for Key Stages 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5 have been in place since September 2008. Humanities is also covered within the Sixth Form Curriculum which is based on EQUALS 'Moving On'. Aspects of 'World Studies', part of each of the three programmes in the Sixth Form, may be covered either as part of the options programme or incorporated into cross-curricular learning for some groups.

'Learning geography helps pupils develop curiosity in, and an understanding of, themselves, other people and places, and the relationships between them.'

(QCA Guidelines)

'Geography really does matter in life. In order to take advantage of one of life's essential freedoms, freedom of movement, there is a need to explore and provide young people whatever their ability with opportunities for decision-making, enrichment and exploration.'

(Chris Durbin QLS Inspector for Geography)

Geography is essentially about the study of places, the human and physical processes, which shape them, and the people who live in them. Skills developed through geography help pupils to make sense of their surroundings and the wider world.

The student is the explorer and their task is to progressively discover the world beyond themselves.

Geography should be exciting, enjoyable and relevant to the explorer. It should allow success and generate feelings of worth and wonder.

'Learning history helps pupils develop curiosity in, and an understanding of, the past. Pupils learn about the recent past, the more distant past of other people, both famous and ordinary, and how their own role in their family and community has changed,' (QCA Guidelines)

History is learning about the past, how it has influenced and shaped our lives, beliefs and customs. It can help pupils to make sense of the world in which they live. Through the teaching of history we can structure and expand our pupils' knowledge and understanding of the past and encourage their investigation of it. It is the study of the relevant past, with pupils being actively involved, experiencing, and using a range of sources of information. The pupil is the investigator and their task is to progressively investigate the world beyond themselves. Linked with other subjects, or as a discrete subject, Humanities provides a range of experiences and achievements, which contributes to the richness of pupils' lives according to individual needs and abilities.

Identified outcomes

In teaching Humanities we aim to develop in students:

- An understanding of how events from the past affect the present
- An understanding of the increasingly multi-faceted character of society
- To explore the common aspects of Geography and History arising from Britain, Europe and the World
- A knowledge, awareness and understanding of a range of skills linked to Geography and History