



History Skills Progression



Skill Area	KS1 (Years 1–2)	Lower KS2 (Years 3–4)	Upper KS2 (Years 5–6)
Chronological Understanding	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Sequence events in their own lives- Recognise past and present	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Place events on a simple timeline- Use dates and terms such as ancient, modern	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Place key events, people, and changes on a timeline using appropriate chronological vocabulary
Historical Enquiry	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Ask and answer simple questions about the past using pictures and stories	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Use evidence (artefacts, documents, buildings) to ask and answer questions	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Evaluate sources for reliability and usefulness- Begin to formulate structured enquiries
Understanding of Events, People and Changes	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Identify significant people and events (e.g. Florence Nightingale, Great Fire of London)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Describe how people and events changed society or were influenced by the time they lived in	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Explain causes and consequences of events, and make links between different periods
Interpretation of History	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Recognise that the past can be represented in different ways (stories, pictures, drama)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Understand that different sources offer different viewpoints	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Analyse different interpretations and begin to explain why interpretations differ
Organisation and Communication	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Talk, write, draw about the past using simple language	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Present findings in various ways (writing, drama, ICT)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Use historical terms and concepts accurately in written and oral presentations
Use of Sources	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Use photographs, objects, and simple stories to find out about the past	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Use a wider range of sources, including written accounts and oral histories	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Critically assess primary and secondary sources, and consider bias and perspective
Historical Vocabulary	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Use everyday terms like "long ago", "before", "past", "now"	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Begin to use historical terms such as "century", "BC/AD", "empire", "civilisation"	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Use historical terminology confidently and correctly, including abstract terms like "democracy", "economy"