Curriculum Statement: History

🏛️ History at Great Arley School

History at Great Arley School is a rich and engaging subject that helps pupils understand the past and its influence on the present. Through storytelling, exploration, and enquiry, our curriculum builds critical thinking, empathy, and a sense of identity. We aim to make history meaningful, accessible, and inspiring for all learners.

🎯 Our Curriculum Intent

- **Creating a Safe and Inclusive Environment**
  Pupils feel confident to explore historical events, ask questions, and express their views in a respectful and supportive setting.
- **Teaching Real-World Relevance**
  Students learn how historical events shape the world today and develop an understanding of their place within it.
- **Encouraging Active Participation**
  Pupils engage in role play, debates, and hands-on activities to bring history to life.
- **Promoting Respect and Empathy**
  Lessons foster understanding of different cultures, perspectives, and experiences across time.
- **Providing Responsive Teaching and Feedback**
  History lessons are interactive, with ongoing feedback to support pupils' curiosity and independence.
- **Delivering High-Quality Outcomes**
  Pupils work towards producing thoughtful historical work through guided enquiry and reflection.
- **Building Language and Terminology**
  Key historical vocabulary and concepts are embedded in every unit to support communication and understanding.
- **Creating Fun and Engaging Lessons**
  History is taught through storytelling, artefacts, and creative projects that make learning memorable.
- **Linking Learning Across the Curriculum**
  History connects with literacy, geography, PSHE, and art to reinforce broader learning.
- **Encouraging Lifelong Interest in the Past**
  Pupils are inspired to explore history beyond the classroom and develop a lasting appreciation for the subject.

📚 Curriculum Overview

- **Primary Red**
  Pupils follow the semi-formal Equals curriculum. Learning is sensory and experiential, focusing on personal history, family traditions, and familiar historical events. Pupils explore timelines, artefacts, and stories from the past.
- **Primary Yellow**
  Pupils follow the formal Equals curriculum. They begin to understand chronological order, key historical figures, and events. Pupils explore changes over time and compare past and present.

- **Primary Blue**
  Pupils continue with the formal Equals curriculum, building confidence in using historical sources, sequencing events, and discussing cause and effect.
- **Year 7**
  Pupils explore early civilisations, British history, and significant global events. They begin to ask historical questions and use evidence to support their ideas.
- **Year 8**
  Pupils deepen their understanding of historical change and continuity, cause and consequence, and significance. Topics include medieval life, the Tudors, and the Industrial Revolution.
- **Year 9**
  Pupils investigate more complex historical themes such as conflict, migration, and social change. They develop skills in interpreting sources and constructing historical arguments.
- **Year 10 & Year 11**
  Pupils study the ASDAN History Short Course, focusing on enquiry-based learning, historical interpretation, and real-world relevance. Units include local history, global events, and thematic studies. Pupils develop transferable skills in research, analysis, and communication.

🛠️ Skills and Knowledge Students Develop

- Understanding of chronology and historical periods
- Ability to interpret and evaluate historical sources
- Use of historical vocabulary and concepts
- Skills in enquiry, analysis, and critical thinking
- Empathy and understanding of diverse perspectives
- Confidence in presenting historical findings
- Knowledge of key events, figures, and movements
- Awareness of how history shapes society and identity

🌍 Careers and Cross-Curricular Connections

- Career links through Gatsby Benchmark 4
- Exploration of careers in museums, heritage, education, law, and journalism
- Employer engagement and themed career weeks
- Integration with:
  - **English** (reading, writing, discussion)
  - **Geography** (historical maps, place studies)
  - **PSHE** (identity, values, citizenship)
  - **Art** (historical artefacts, visual storytelling)
  - **ICT** (research, digital timelines, presentations)