

<u>Overview Document</u> <u>2026/2027</u>	Curriculum Area: ACE History	Year Group: Z
	Personnel Responsible: PPR	Quality Assured by: RDE

Cycle	Topic/Unit Title – Big Question	Content Coverage	Skill development and links to other areas of this subject's curriculum
2	What was life like in Medieval England?	Within this cycle students will delve into Medieval England, exploring the Anglo-Saxons, the claimants to the throne of England in 1066, and the battles that took place (Stamford Bridge, Fulford Gate and Hastings) in that year. During the later part of the cycle, students will learn about Motte and Bailey Castles and the Black Death, looking at a wide range of sources to give greater understanding.	This history unit explores the key events and figures surrounding the end of the Anglo-Saxon period and the Norman Conquest, enabling students to build a secure understanding of chronology, cause and consequence. Students begin by examining Anglo-Saxon life and the impact of Viking invasions, considering how these led to significant changes in the structure and control of the country. They learn about the rules of succession and the competing claims to the English throne in 1066, including those of Edgar Atheling, Harold Godwinson, Harold Hardrada and William of Normandy. Through discussion and debate, students evaluate the strength of each claim, developing their understanding of monarchy and leadership. The unit continues with a detailed study of the key battles of 1066, including Fulford Gate, Stamford Bridge and the Battle of Hastings. Students explore the strategies and tactics used, such as the shield wall and William's feigned retreat, and consider how factors like fatigue and leadership influenced the outcomes. Active learning approaches, such as re-enacting battles, support students in recalling events and deepening their understanding. Following the Norman victory, students examine changes to life in England, including the introduction of motte and bailey castles and the roles of villagers within them. The unit concludes by exploring later medieval developments, including the impact of the Black Death on society, enabling students to understand how significant events shaped England over time and to consolidate their knowledge through assessment. This unit introduces students to life in Tudor England, exploring how everyday experiences were shaped by wealth, status and belief. Students investigate the living conditions of Tudor people, including the use of wattle and daub in house construction, as well as differences in diet and clothing. They learn how to draw

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			inferences from historical sources, using evidence to compare the lives of the rich and the poor and understand how wealth influenced living conditions. Through this, students develop their ability to interpret historical evidence and build a clearer picture of society at the time. The unit also focuses on the reign of King Henry VIII, examining his six marriages and the significant political and religious changes that resulted. Students explore the concept of succession and Henry's desire for a male heir, alongside key events such as his marriage to Catherine of Aragon, the annulment crisis and the creation of the Church of England. They consider the roles and fates of his wives, including Anne Boleyn, Jane Seymour, Anne of Cleves and Catherine of Howard, using key vocabulary such as treason, annulment and heir. Through these studies, students develop an understanding of how Henry's personal decisions had far-reaching consequences for the country, including the break from the Catholic Church. The unit concludes by examining the final years of Henry's life, his marriage to Catherine Parr, and the legacy he left behind, including the rule of his three children, allowing students to consolidate their knowledge and understanding of the Tudor period.
4	Who was Henry VIII and his six wives?	During cycle four, students will learn about Henry VIII and his six wives, specifically focusing on the chronology of the events and marriages that took place. Each lesson will focus on a different wife: Catherine of Aragon, Anne Boleyn, Jane Seymour, Anne of Cleves, Catherine Howard and Catherine Parr. Within this cycle they will also get the opportunity to investigate life in Tudor times and the Great Matter.	