

The Curriculum

Our curriculum is designed to develop the skills, knowledge and attitudes which will support children throughout their school lives and into adulthood. These include the basic skills of communication, through speaking and listening, reading and writing, and maths skills. They also include those skills which will help children become independent and confident people who know how to stay safe and keep fit and healthy.

Our curriculum also aims to help children develop positive attitudes towards themselves, towards others and towards the wider world in which they live.

The National Curriculum is organised on the basis of the following stages:

The Early Years/Foundation Stage	3-5 years
Key Stage 1	5-7 years
Key Stage 2	7-11 years

All children are offered a broad, balanced and differentiated curriculum which is relevant to their age and ability.

In Foundation, the emphasis is on learning through play. Investigation and first hand experiences are actively encouraged and topics are planned on a half termly basis taking into account the interests of the children. Children will learn the basic skills of number and letter recognition and formation and will bring home words to learn before progressing to a reading book. The Reception teacher will keep you closely informed. Most of the work in Reception is generated by talking, listening and doing, rather than written work, although children who show readiness for writing skills will be encouraged to develop.

In key stage 1, the children follow a two year rolling programme of topics which act as a stimulus and a focus for learning:

KS1	Autumn	Spring	Summer
First year (2014/15)	In the Deep Dark Woods <i>Science</i>	Knights and Castles <i>History</i>	Journeys <i>Geography</i>
Second year (2015/16)	Island Life	Who's that walking on my	Home and Away! (Captain Cook)

	Science/Geography	bridge? History	History/Geography
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In key stage 2, topic work continues but there is an emphasis on specific subjects when this is appropriate:

LKS2	Autumn	Spring	Summer
First year (2014/15)	The Romans History	Up Pompeii! Geography	Creepy Crawlies! Science
Second year (2015/16)	Light Science	The Ancient Egyptians History/Geography	Staying Alive! Science

UKS2	Autumn	Spring	Summer
First year (2014/15)	Eurika! History	All Change! Science/DT	Staying Alive! Science
		Music and Musicians History	Y5 Sth America Y6 Seahouses Geography
Second year (2015/16)	Victorian Darlington History	Space Science	Bodyworks Science/PHSE
		Inventors and Inventions History	Y5 Sth America Y6 Seahouses Geography

Throughout their time at St John's we strive to provide the children with a curriculum which is enriched with a wealth of different experiences. Each class will take part in an educational visit school every term in order to enhance their learning. In addition to this, we frequently have visitors in school. These range from authors, artists and theatre groups to zoo lab and planetariums; all with the intention of promoting a love of learning.

At St John's we are committed to providing equal opportunities for all. This means we value equally the unique qualities of each individual. We oppose discrimination on the grounds of gender, ability, religion, and race and actively teach the children to recognise and combat discrimination themselves. All children have access to all aspects of the curriculum.



English

English is given a very high priority from Early Years onwards. We want children to become fluent speakers, attentive listeners, avid readers and competent writers.

We regard reading as being an essential key to success. Children are encouraged to read at home and any help that parents or other adults can give is of great value. Children who are supported at home make much more progress and are more likely to develop a love of reading.

Phonics, or letter patterns, sounds and rules are taught to help children read and spell. At St John's the children are taught phonics in a fun and active way using 'Letters and Sounds'. This is supported by Jolly Phonics actions. The children are taught at the level appropriate to their needs rather than according to their year group. Parents are invited to a meeting with the Reception teacher to explain the scheme and enable parents to support their child's learning. At the end of Y1, the children take part in a national assessment of their phonic knowledge.

We have a number of reading schemes in school as well as a wide range of other reading books. All books are colour-coded/labelled to relate closely to a level of ability and so allow children to choose from a range of appropriate material. This individualised reading approach is operated alongside group 'Guided Reading' to ensure that the wide range of skills necessary to become a fluent and confident reader are addressed and achieved. Teachers are involved in the on-going assessment of individual children in order to determine when they are ready to move on to the next level. Each child will progress through the schemes according to individual ability. However, children develop reading skills at different rates and not all children acquire these skills in the same order so it is not helpful to compare your child's reading book with that of another child. If you have any concerns the class teacher will be pleased to discuss them with you.

All children are encouraged to bring their reading books home and they are accompanied by a home/school reading record in which teachers and parents are able to record progress, and make comments. One of the greatest gifts a child can receive is ten minutes of a parent's time each day listening to their child read and talking about what has been read - recalling what has happened, discussing the meaning of words, noticing patterns in spelling, guessing about what is going to happen next.

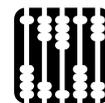
We hope you will assist your child by talking about his / her reading and making sure that reading books come to school every day along with their home / school reading record booklet. We want all our children to become competent readers who can read to find information but also who read for pleasure and enjoyment.

Speaking and Listening skills are developed in class and group discussions, Circle Time, assembly presentations, drama and role-play. Children are encouraged to present their ideas in a variety of ways, including the use of ICT, to listen attentively and to ask questions.

We place a real emphasis on writing as a basic and essential skill at St John's and we strive to support children in their efforts to be able to communicate clearly and effectively in the written form. This involves providing opportunities for children to become familiar with the organisation and language features used in a range of writing and then to use these to support and develop their own written work using the 'think, rehearse, write and read' sequence of learning. We encourage children to be creative and to write for a variety of purpose, using ICT where appropriate, whilst also teaching the importance of grammar, spelling and punctuation. Our curriculum includes many opportunities for children to develop their writing skills in 'real life' situations e.g. form filling, applications, letters of complaint etc.

Spelling patterns and rules are taught in class but we also encourage children to learn a weekly word list, informed by the National Curriculum, at home.

The school uses the Penpals Cambridge Handwriting style and encourages children to develop a neat joined up handwriting script.



Mathematics

Mathematics is very important in every day life and so a great deal of emphasis is placed on numeracy and relating mathematics to the real world. This includes using money, working with time and timetables and using a range of measures. Children are encouraged to use various mathematical strategies to solve problems.

There is a variety of mathematical work within school including mental and oral work, written work, practical, investigational and problem solving.

Mental and oral work focuses on the rapid recall of essential facts such as number bonds, times tables, equivalent measures and properties of shapes. Being able to recall this information quickly supports children with calculations,

problem solving and investigational work and so children are encouraged to learn them by heart, often as part of their weekly homework.

We want all our children to enjoy maths and study it with confidence and a sense of achievement. To help children achieve these aims the school follows the guidance from the National Curriculum, which provides detailed learning objectives for children from Reception to Year 6. Mathematics is linked to other subject areas where possible.

Computing

I.C.T. plays an important and central role within the school curriculum. We are well resourced for computers, with a networked suite of 16 P.C's and 60 portable laptops. The children are given the opportunity to develop a wide range of skills and knowledge through specific I.C.T lessons, and through other curriculum areas. These range from keyboard skills and using programmes to publish work, using technology to locate information and also programming activities.



Science

Science is taught through a series of planned topics through which investigational skills are taught. Children are encouraged to accurately observe and record, predict what may happen in an investigation and devise methods of carrying out 'fair tests'. In addition to scientific skills we also provide the children with a broad base of scientific knowledge in accordance with National Curriculum requirements. A key aspect of science is working safely with a range of tools and equipment and learning about household safety.

History

History is taught through a series of topics ranging from the Ancient Greeks to The Victorians. Children are introduced to the concept of chronology and wherever possible visit historical sites. The history of Darlington and its important place in British history provides a valuable opportunity for children to learn about their heritage.

Geography

Children begin by discovering the geography of their 'known world' the home, school and neighbourhood. In key stage 1, children begin to discover the wider world through a series of planned themes. They study contrasting localities in the United Kingdom and in a non-European country as well as learning about seasonal and daily weather patterns. In key stage 2, children learn about a contrasting European region and a region of South America. By the end of key

stage 2, we aim to ensure that the children can name the key geographical features of the UK including mountains and rivers, identify the countries of Europe and understand the organisation of the globe. Wherever possible fieldwork is used to support theory and children acquire skills such as map reading and construction. An important aspect of our work in school is helping the children to understand how the world is changing, how that will impact on us and how we can make positive contributions to our own community and the wider world.

Design Technology

Design Technology encourages children to understand the importance of this area in relation to the changing world in which they live. Children will be given opportunities to identify needs, work out their own ideas and through design, planning and construction provide practical solutions to problems and then evaluate the outcomes. Children are taught how to use a range of tools and equipment accurately and safely. As part of our learning about healthy lifestyles we also look at nutrition and cookery.

As children develop, the work becomes more refined and the problems they tackle are more adventurous.

Art

The aim is to foster an awareness of colour and form through the experience in working with a wide range of materials using many different methods and media. These lessons give children a valuable way of expressing themselves. They provide a feeling of success, which contributes greatly to their self-esteem. The children are also given opportunities to study the work of some famous artists. This helps them to appreciate and enjoy the talents of others and provides ideas for their own work.



Music

All children experience taking part in making music. They have the opportunity to listen to and appreciate a wide range of styles from contrasting composers and periods. All children in years 3 and 4 benefit from a specialist music teacher who teaches recorder, while children in year 5 are taught the eukele. Those who wish to pursue music further are given the opportunity to be fully stretched in individual and small group tuition by a specialist. There is a modest charge for tuition and instrument rental.

Modern Foreign Languages

All children in key stage 2 are taught Spanish by a specialist languages teacher.

Sport and Physical Education

Through our work in physical education we provide opportunities for each individual child to develop a very wide range of skills including athletics, dance, gymnastics, swimming, outdoor activities and traditional games; cricket, football, hockey, rounders and rugby. We also place great emphasis on the development of the social skills necessary to work as part of a team and to co-operate with each other. Swimming lessons are provided at the Dolphin Centre for children in Year 5 and 6 and we aim that every child will be able to swim at least 25 metres by the end of key stage 2.

We are very proud of our excellent sport and physical education provision; every class has at least two hours of P.E. per week and the opportunity to attend a wide range of after school sports. We have a national 'gold' sporting award.

Personal, Social and Health Education and Citizenship

Health Education receives high priority in the school and we achieved the National Healthy School Standard award in December 07. We follow a Social and Emotional Aspects of Learning programme (S.E.A.L) and work on the themes as a whole school. Children are given the opportunity to develop their awareness and understanding of the following areas:

- Citizenship - social and moral responsibility, community involvement
- Drug Awareness
- Emotional Health
- Physical Activity
- Healthy Eating
- Safety
- Sex and Relationship Education - is taught in Years 5 and 6 as part of science .Y6 children take part in a planned programme involving the school nurse. Teaching is based upon the changes which take place in the body at puberty and the biological process of human production. Parents are notified when this programme will take place and are welcome to discuss it. Parents may withdraw their child through a written request to the Headteacher.

All of our policies and practices are rooted in our Christian values.

Religious Education

Religious Education is taught weekly in all classes following the Diocesan Syllabus. The School's Christian Foundation enables us to have an expectation that all our children will take part in RE lessons. As well as learning about the Christian Faith from within, as members of a Christian community, children also

study aspects of world faiths. There are opportunities from spiritual development and consideration of moral issues. Parents have the right to withdraw their children from Religious Education but it is hoped that the majority of parents choosing a Church School would adhere to the RE curriculum. Any withdrawal must be discussed with the Headteacher.

An Overview

The following sheets give a subject overview of the curriculum in each year group:

Overview of the Primary Curriculum

Based on National Curriculum published in September 2013

This document contains 6 A3 sheets, each of which presents an outline of the content of the new National Curriculum from 2014

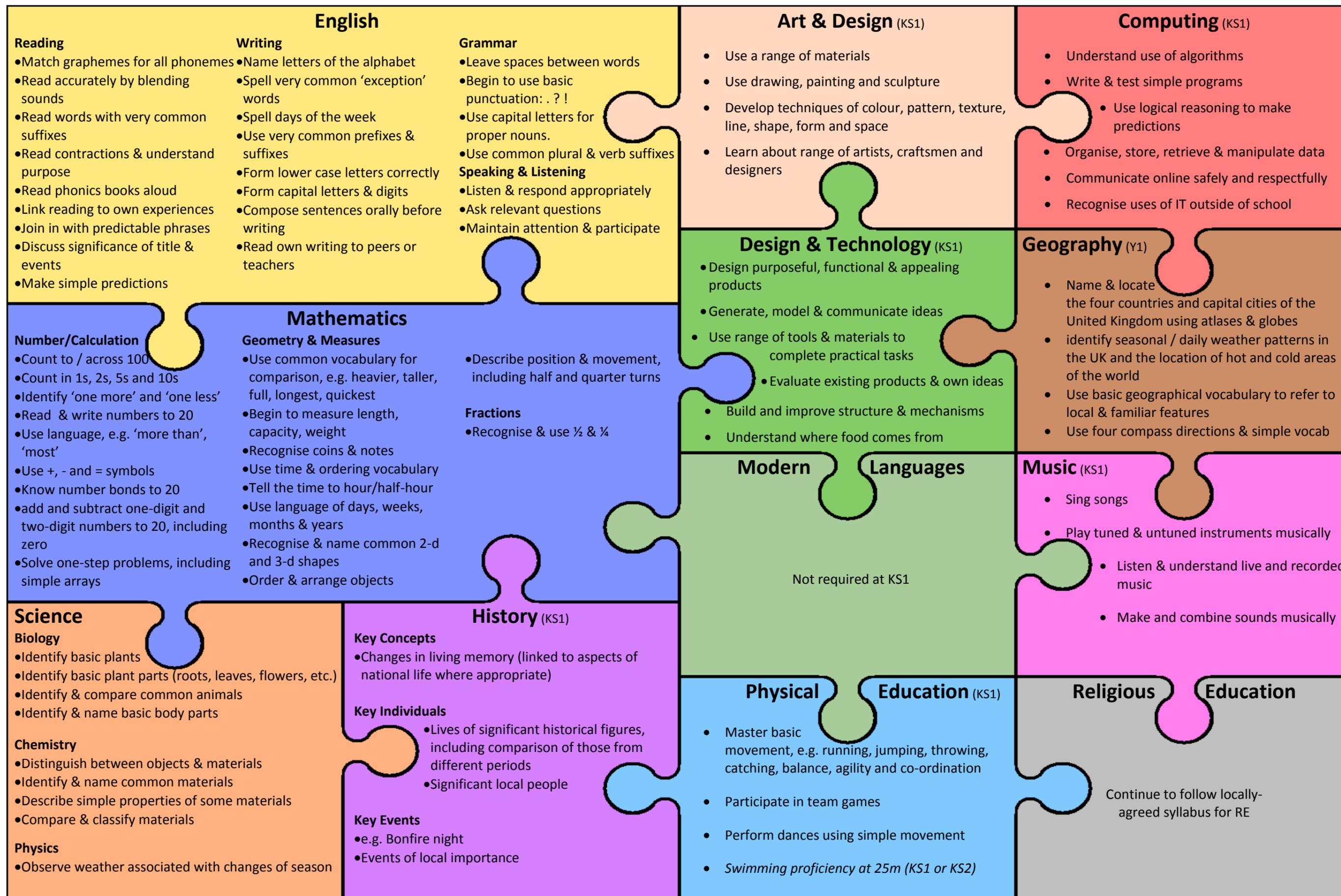
Core subjects (English, Maths & Science) are presented in a year-by-year format, based on the outlines given in the National Curriculum. History is also presented in this format, based on a suggested programme.

All other subjects are presented in two-year sections, dividing KS2 into Lower and Upper Key Stages.

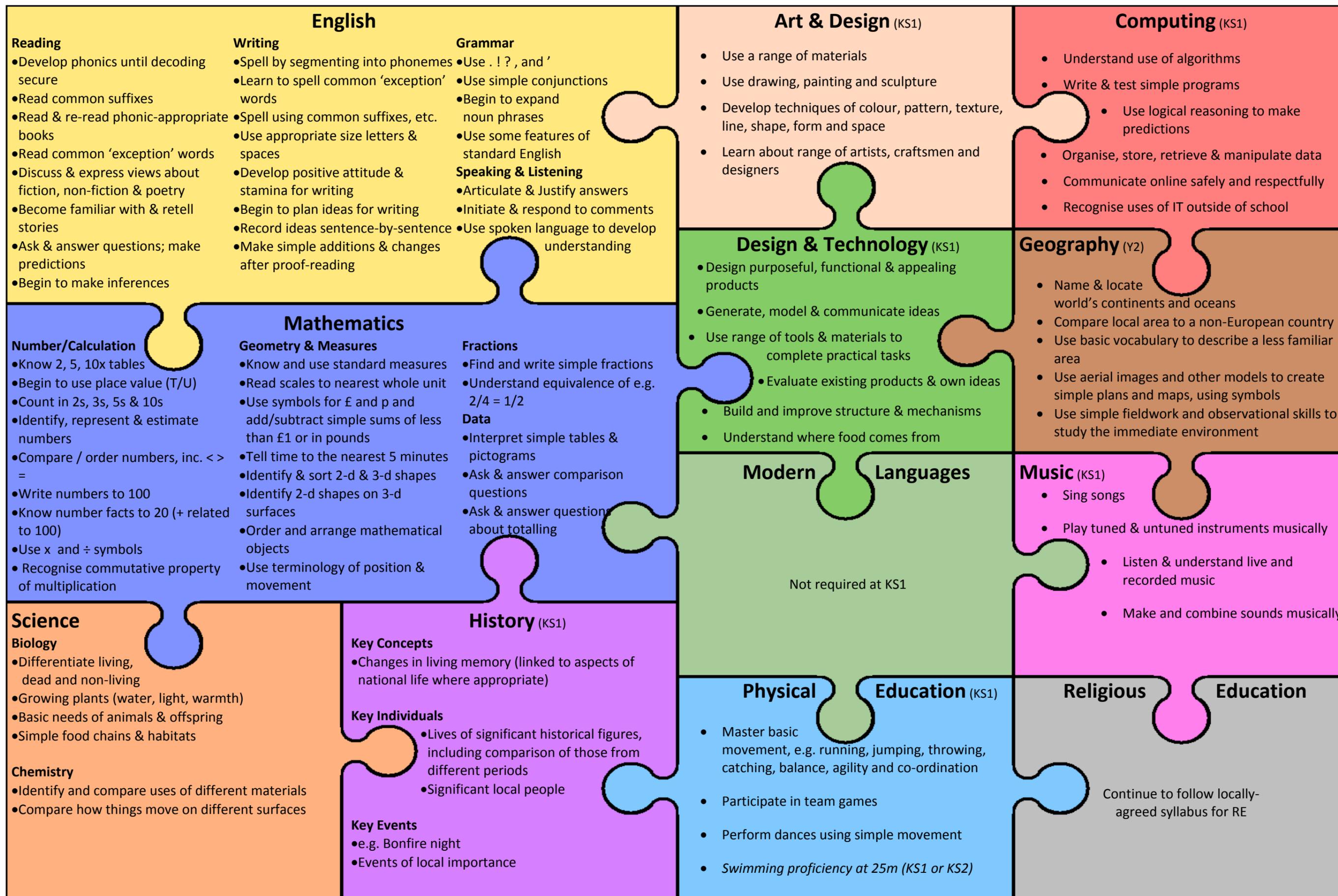
It should be noted that it is only statutorily required to cover each Key Stage's content by the end of the key stage. It is for schools to decide on the most appropriate ordering for their situation.



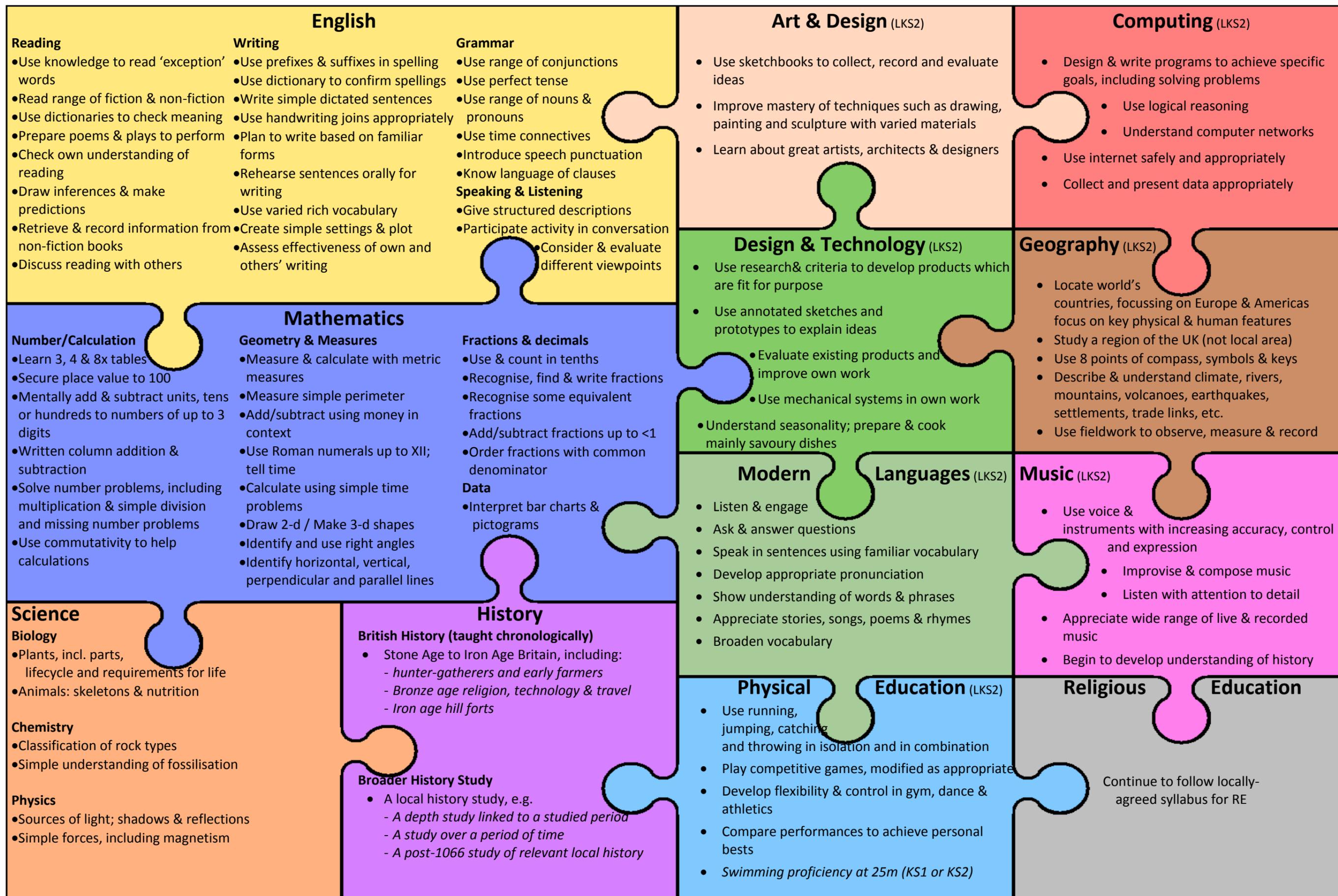
Curriculum Overview for Year 1



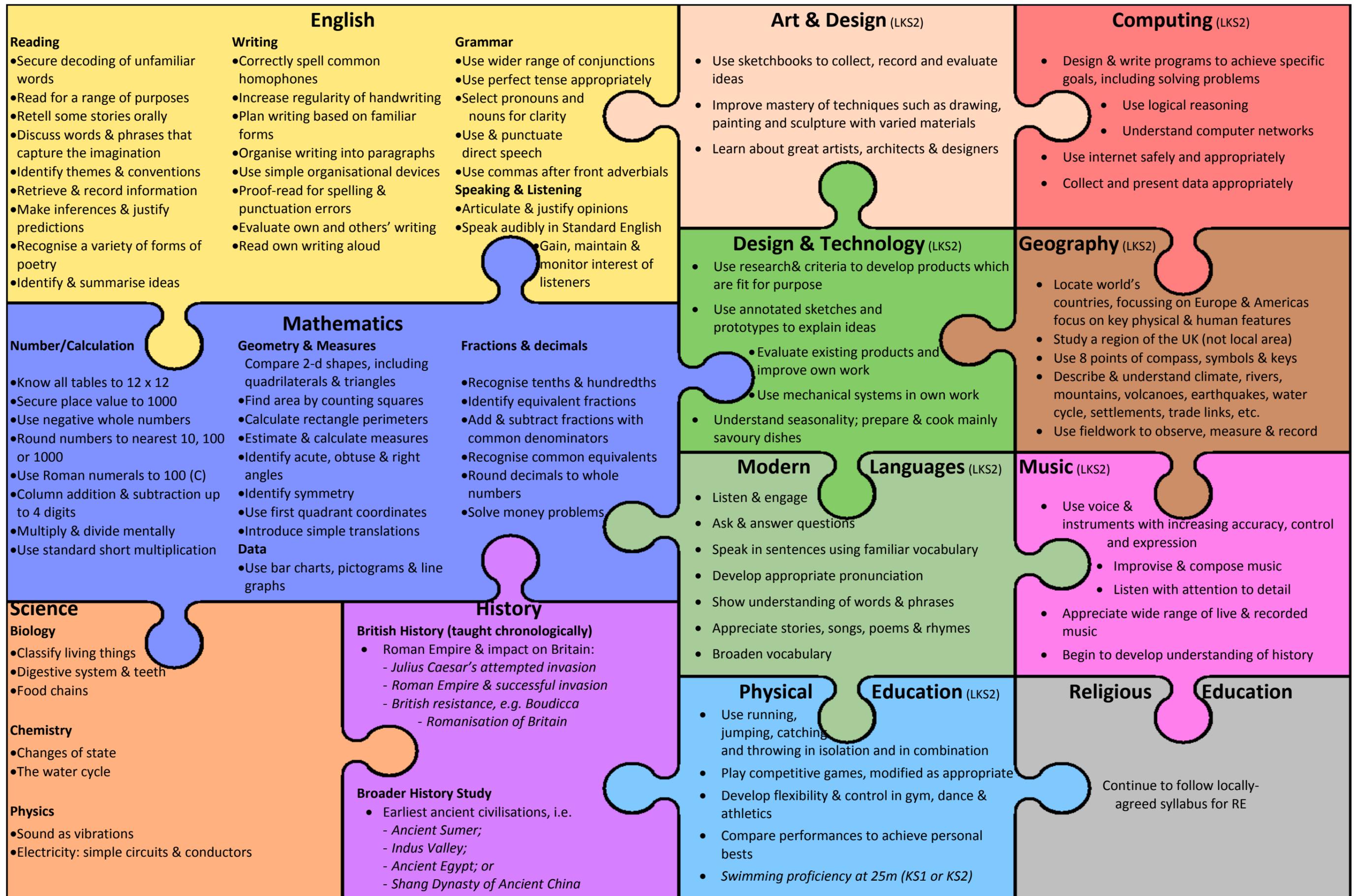
Curriculum Overview for Year 2



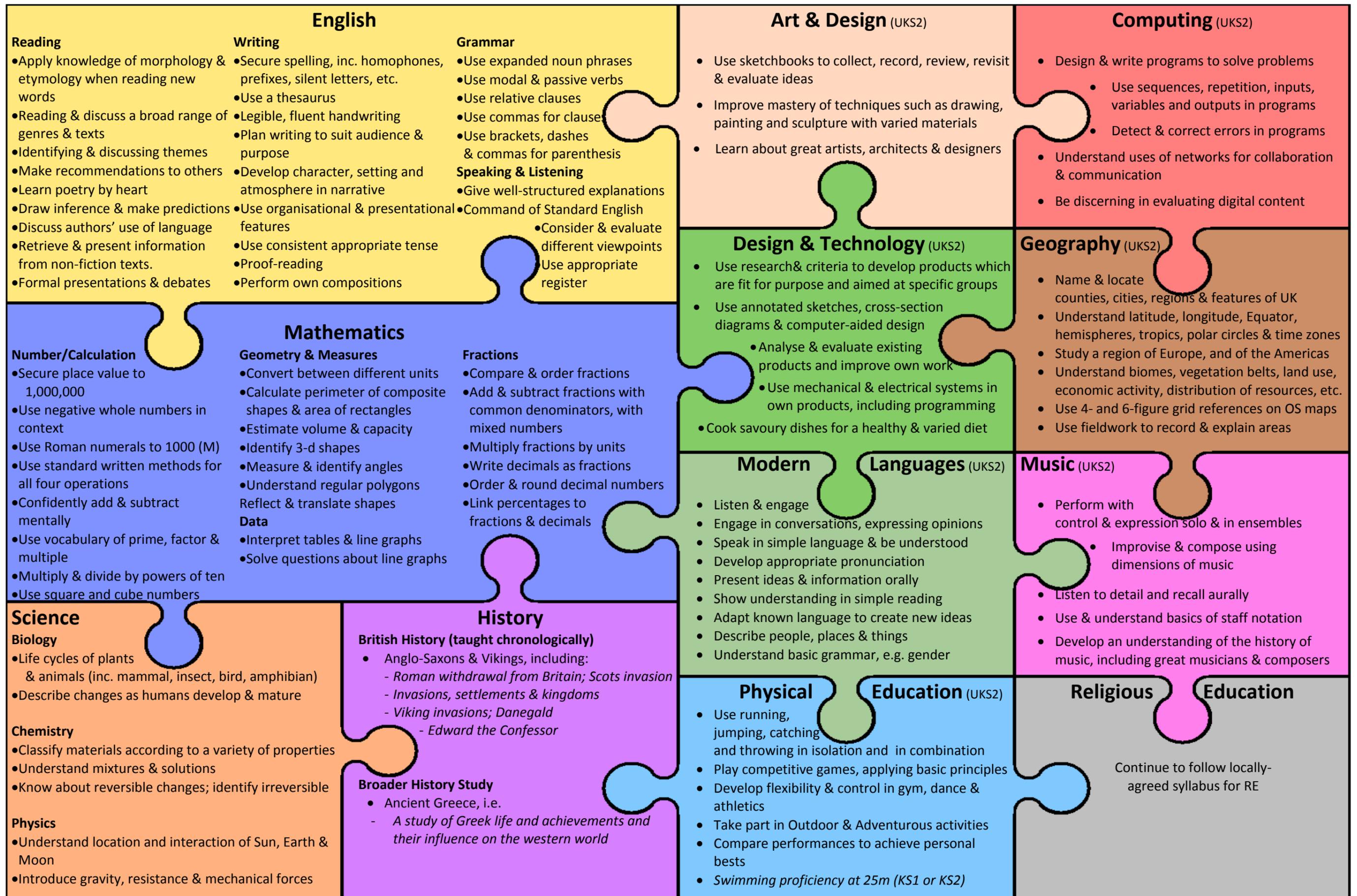
Curriculum Overview for Year 3



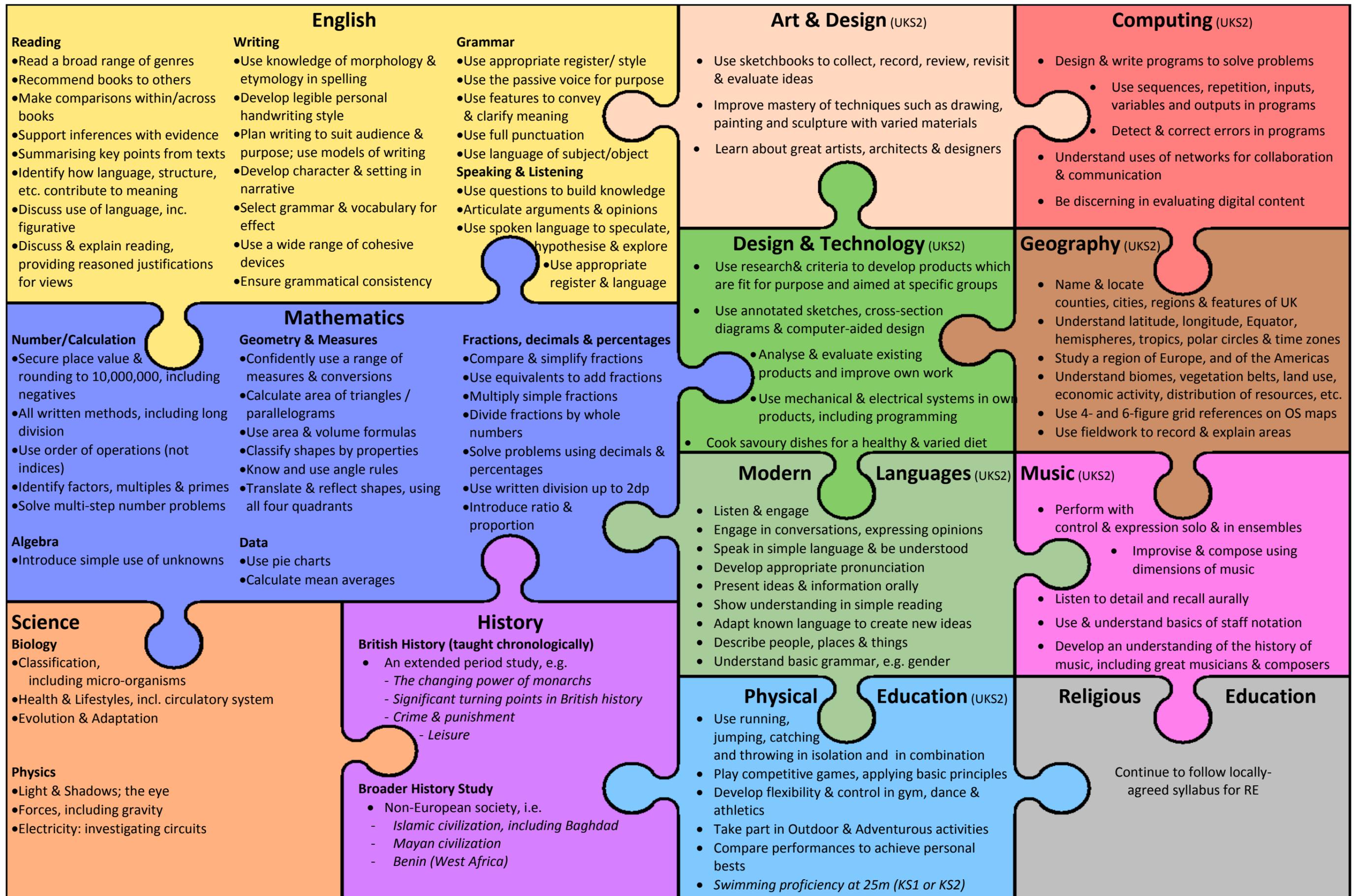
Curriculum Overview for Year 4



Curriculum Overview for Year 5



Curriculum Overview for Year 6



Curriculum Overview

