



## The Black Curriculum's Working Group Terms of Reference

### 1. Why did we set up the Working Group?

#### 1.1 Policy context

In March 2022, the Department of Education (DfE) announced that it “[will work with history curriculum experts, historians and school leaders to develop a model history curriculum by 2024 that will stand as an exemplar for a knowledge-rich, coherent approach to the teaching of history](#)”. This announcement was in response to the Government’s ‘Commission on Race and Ethnic Disparities [report](#)’ which included a recommendation on the history curriculum taught in schools. This recommendation was about “*teaching an inclusive curriculum through independent experts, to tell the multiple, nuanced stories of the contributions made by different groups that have made this country the one it is today*”. Two key action points set out under this recommendation were as follows:

- *“[Action 57](#): To help pupils understand the intertwined nature of British and global history, and their own place within it, the DfE will work with history curriculum experts, historians and school leaders to develop a Model History Curriculum by 2024 that will stand as an exemplar for a knowledge-rich, coherent approach to the teaching of history. The Model History Curriculum will support high quality teaching and help teachers and schools to develop their own school curriculum fully using the flexibility and freedom of the history national curriculum and the breadth and depth of content it includes.*”
- *“[Action 58](#): The DfE will actively seek out and signpost to schools suggested high-quality resources to support teaching all-year round on black history in readiness for Black History Month October 2022. This will help support schools to share the multiple, nuanced stories of the contributions made by different groups that have made this country the one it is today”.*”

The Black Curriculum has since its inception been calling for the Government to embed Black British history in the national curriculum. Whilst the Government appears to have taken notice, the above proposed [Model History Curriculum](#) will be a non-statutory guidance document. The document will be designed to support the teaching of the national curriculum programmes of study for history, there are no plans to review the history curriculum itself. Further, there has been no communication, since the announcement, on the progress of this work. The Government has also not conducted a consultation exercise to ensure that stakeholders can inform the development of the guidance document.

## 1.2 Remit of the Working Group

This Working Group will:

- Follow DfE's work on the Model History Curriculum, review and comment, and be the conduit through which different stakeholders can provide feedback on the process as well as the outcomes.
- Steer consultation exercises which will be run by The Black Curriculum with different stakeholders on the shape of the proposed Model History Curriculum.
- Follow up on responses received and provide any recommendations in line with the consultation exercises on the practicalities of implementing the Model History Curriculum at a school level - what would work well and why and what could be improved.

## **2. What will be the structure and approach to the Working Group?**

Taking a grassroots approach, similar to The Black Curriculum's model, the working group includes school and University representatives and history experts, a Union representative, a representative from an Exam board and UCET. A few relevant MPs will also be invited to comment on the work of the group as and when papers are produced. The current members of the group are outlined below.

<b>Name</b>	<b>Organisation</b>	<b>Role in Organisation</b>
Dr Deidre Osborne	Goldsmiths University	Reader in English Literature and Drama Hon. FRSL, FRSA
Emily Folorunsho	London's Barking Abbey School	Head of history at London's Barking Abbey School (Black British History KS3 Teacher Resource Pack)
Michelle Codrington-Rogers	NASWUT	National Treasurer
Shalina Patel	Claremont High School Academy	Head of Teaching and Learning/History
Laura Morrison	Cedar Mount Academy	Teacher
Matthew Oresman	Pillsbury Law	Managing Partner (Policy adviser)
Rhia Gibbs	Black Teachers Connect	Founding Director and CEO

## 2.1 How often does the group meet?

The group meets virtually on a monthly basis, and the plan is to move to quarterly meetings once the current consultation exercise on the Model History Curriculum has been completed.

There is currently nothing in the public domain on what has been done or is being done by the DfE on the Model History Curriculum, including updates of where they are at. A core aim of this group will be to call for some transparency on the timelines and relevant phases of the work programme.