



## **A Topic Based Approach**

In order to ensure we have cross curricular links and the opportunities for purposeful, quality outcomes St Peter's operates a 'Topic Based Approach' to curriculum organisation. However, some subject content doesn't lend itself to being taught in a 'Topic Approach' and is taught discretely in its own right (e.g. much of maths and many areas of Science, RSHE or RE. In the case of these discrete elements they have been planned out within the system outlined below as separate elements.

### **Our Rationale for Topic Choice**

- History has generally determined a lot of our Topic choices.
  - History is one of the few foundation subjects where specific instructions in N.C. are given about what knowledge should be covered.
  - Reading has a huge focus in New Framework.
  - Geography isn't quite so specific on the knowledge side and has more focus on skills. But it specifies 4 places to study in KS2.
- In KS 1 you have to compare UK & Non-European Country and know 7 Continents, 5 oceans of The World. 4 countries of UK.
- In KS2 Geography you have to cover: Location in UK, Europe, North or South America and Local Area Fieldwork over the 4 years.
- Science can be very discrete. AND – Where it fits into our topics has already been identified.
  - In KS2 History there are 8 areas to cover specified in the National Curriculum: 2 per year for the 4 years in Key Stage 2.

Therefore:

#### **In Key Stage 2:**

Each school year we will have:

- **TERM 1** - A HISTORY LED TOPIC

**There should always be a Geographical element to a History topic – e.g. Maps of Empires, reasons for civilizations locations.**

- **TERM 2** - A GEOGRAPHY LED ONE WITH A MINOR HISTORY ONE ATTACHED

**The Geography Topic should be allocated  $\frac{3}{4}$  of the Humanities timetabled time in Term 2.**

- **TERM 3** - READING / TEXT FOCUS TOPICS (1, 2 OR 3 Books in a term).

- books could be RSHE Focus, Science Focus, R.E. Focus

In this way, the 8 major areas of History identified in the National Curriculum for KS2 are taught over the 4 year period of the Key Stage because there are 2 History topics per year.

Additionally, each of the 4 major World locations are covered across Key Stage 2 by focussing on one, in depth, per academic year.

### **In Key Stage 1:**

Each school year we can be more fluid but the same general principle applies:

- HISTORY LED TOPICS
- GEOGRAPHY LED TOPICS
- And READING / TEXT FOCUS LED TOPICS
  - books could be PSHE Focus, Science Focus, R.E. Focus

e.g. 'The Great Plant Hunt', Festivals of Light.

This has led to us ensuring:

■ The subject curriculum is designed and delivered in a way that allows pupils to transfer key knowledge to long-term memory. It is sequenced so that new knowledge and skills build on what has been taught before and pupils can work towards clearly defined end points.

### **OTHER APPENDICES:**

**Curriculum Structure and Planning Guide:** See Appendix 2

**The Organisation of Maths and English:** See Appendix 3

**Curriculum Time Allocation:** See Appendix 4

**Teaching and Learning Policy:** See Appendix 5