

## Greenfields Academy – Topic Rationale

### Intent:

At Greenfields Academy the Topic Curriculum is made up of discrete blocks of the following subjects: History, Geography, Languages, Computing. Topics are informed by the national curriculum and are sensitive to children's interests. The Topic curriculum at Greenfields Academy is carefully planned and structured to ensure that current learning is linked to previous learning and that the school's approaches are informed by current pedagogy.

**History** - In line with the national curriculum 2014, our curriculum aims to ensure that all pupils: Gain a coherent knowledge and understanding of Britain's past and that of the wider world which helps to stimulate pupils' curiosity to know more about the past; Are encouraged to ask perceptive questions, think critically, weigh evidence, sift arguments, and develop perspective and judgement; Begin to understand the complexity of people's lives, the process of change, the diversity of societies and relationships between different groups, as well as their own identity and the challenges of their time.

**Geography** - The intention of our Geography Curriculum is to inspire children's curiosity and interest to explore the world that we live in and its people, which aims to ignite a love of learning. We intend to equip children with geographical skills to develop their knowledge through studying places, people and natural and human environments. This seeks to deepen the understanding of the Earth's human and physical forms and processes. Geography, by nature, is an investigative subject. Through our teaching, we intend to provoke thought, questions and to encourage children to discover answers to their own questions through exploration and research to enable them to gain a greater understanding and knowledge of the world and their place in it.

**Computing** - It is our intention to enable children to find, explore, analyse, exchange and present information. We also focus on developing the skills necessary for children to be able to use information in a discriminating and effective way. We want children to know more, remember more and understand more in computing so that they leave primary school computer literate. Computing skills are a major factor in enabling children to be confident, creative and independent learners and it is our intention that children have every opportunity available to allow them to achieve this.

**Modern Foreign Languages** - At Greenfields Academy, the intention of our MFL curriculum is to develop an interest in and thirst for learning other languages. We aim to introduce the learning of the French language and the understanding of its culture in enjoyable and stimulating ways. We hope to embed the essential skills of listening, reading, speaking and writing. We aim to build the children's 'culture capital' so that they are aware of similarities and differences between cultures. In short, we hope to lay the foundations for future language learning.

### Implementation:

In Primary we use a thematic approach to planning and teaching in as many curriculum areas as possible which allows children to become immersed in a topic. Last academic year the existing cohort of children to selected and voted for the different Topics which they will study this year. This is to encourage the children to take control of their own learning and improve engagement. Topics are changed every two terms. All of our Topic subjects are taught in blocks throughout the year, so that children achieve depth in their learning. Our long-term planning identifies the key knowledge and skills of each topic and consideration has been given to ensure progression across topics throughout each year group across the school.

**History** - By the end of year 6, children will have a chronological understanding of British history, and will be able to draw comparisons and make connections between different time periods and their own lives. Interlinked with this are studies of world history, such as the ancient civilisations of Greece and the Egyptians. Cross curricular outcomes in history are specifically planned for, with strong links between the history curriculum and literacy lessons enabling further contextual learning.

**Geography** – Our Geography curriculum aims to promote the children's interest and understanding of diverse places, people, resources and natural and human environments, together with a deep understanding of the Earth's key physical and human processes. A focus is placed on how peoples live differently in different parts of the world to encourage children to understand the perspectives of others, as well as to ensure their understand the impacts of their actions on the environment and others around the world.

**Computing** – Our Computing curriculum is heavily interlinked with Humanities subjects, and often taught alongside these. Computing knowledge is applied and enhanced across all curriculum subjects where possible. Children are taught to access a variety of technology including IPADs, music applications, geocaching and simple robots.

**Modern Foreign Languages** – This year all pupils will follow this same curriculum for French, differentiated appropriately by their teachers. This allows for peer-mentoring and ensures pupils are not disadvantaged if they have not studied this language in a previous setting. We will enrich this curriculum with links to the French culture including trying French food and researching French culture. In year 6 pupils study an additional unit of Spanish to support their 'Hola! Mexico' unit.

As we have a high staff to pupil ratio, we are able to offer personalised and caring support to all of our children to ensure that they make good progress. In addition to this at the end of each unit of work, each pupil will complete a structured assessed piece of work to demonstrate their learning over time in a specific curriculum area, this is highlight on our long-term planning. Pupils are also encouraged to assess and improve their own, and the work of their peers on a regular basis.

**Intended Impact:**

We aim to ensure that pupils are secure in their Primary topic knowledge to allow them to access the separate curriculum areas when they progress into secondary.

This academic Year we intend to make further impact in the following areas of Topic:

- Ensure that pupils are able to make connections between the different subject areas.
- Pupils continue to apply their knowledge acquired in Topic lessons to other curriculum areas.
- Equally for pupils to apply their understanding of Literacy and Numeracy etc to Topic work and make appropriate connections.
- Pupils to develop analytical thinking and questioning skills across the curriculum.
- Pupils to be able to appreciate and understand the different perspectives of people in the past and people in different situations around the world.
- Increase the amount of education visits to further contextual learning.
- Children to be confident in using computing skills across the curriculum
- Increased awareness of internet safety

