History and Geography

Each week there is one hour timetabled for the teaching of History / Geography.

The History / Geography lesson is split into two parts – information gathering and information processing.

Information Gathering

This part of the lesson is prepared so that pupils, as much as possible, gather the relevant knowledge themselves. Pupils are encouraged to interact with the information source in some way, for example by:

- Highlighting and annotating the text
- Making notes from a video
- Summarising information from a book or other resource
- Researching the facts using ICT
- Answering questions about an information source (verbal or written)

Information Processing

This part of the lesson enables the pupils to interact with the information developing skills that can be transferred to other subjects. This is the most important part of the lesson as it develops the pupil's ability to reason.

The pupils are required to process the information gleaned from the reading text in some way e.g. to rank, organise, sort, summarise. We aim to develop the pupil's skills of:

- Interpreting – making predictions
- Sifting and sorting
- Paraphrasing – repeating information in a different way
- Prioritising – choosing or rejecting information by deciding how useful it is
- Reasoning and thinking logically
- Comparing and contrasting
- Making judgements about information e.g. weighing up strengths and weaknesses
- Considering alternative interpretations
- Classify and sequencing
- Constructing an argument
- Drawing inferences, making deductions
- Evaluating the information source

Books will show a range of skills being developed in a variety of ways, for example:

- Fact files
- Art – interpreting information to create (e.g. a labelled diagram of a pyramid)
- Diary entries
- Investigations
- Mind maps
- Cloze procedures
- Creating Top-trumps
- Creating period menus etc.
- Labelling / creating maps
- Graphs

We aim to ensure that our pupils develop the skills to **interpret, evaluate** and **reason** about information rather than just learn it.