

Topic Rationale

Intention- What we want to achieve and why we do what we do

At Rachel Madocks School we are committed to providing our students with outstanding learning opportunities. Our topic curriculum has been developed to enrich them and teach them about the world they live in, give them cultural experiences and provide creative opportunities. We aim to offer a topic approach that is well planned and meets the needs of all our learners. The topic approach aims to act as a vehicle to embed the pathway assessment criteria alongside individual EHCP targets. Within the lower school (including early years) and the upper school, both have their own five-year rolling topic cycle whereas Post 16 has a three-year cycle. This is looked at and amended regularly to support the different needs of our students. As students' progress through the school, we aim to support their growth in communication skills, independence and confidence.

Implementation - How do we achieve this through our learning and curriculum and how we do it

At Rachel Madocks School all teachers have excellent subject knowledge and they are supported to maintain and develop this knowledge through ongoing training, observations and moderations. Subject leads work closely with teachers from different departments to ensure planning and lessons show sequential learning, that is meaningful and enriching for our learners. We enrich our curriculums with external opportunities, this may be in the form of going out on trips or through having external visitors come to visit our school. We have clear tracking and monitoring of where students are meeting their individual targets through the means of our individualised assessment software called Evidence for Learning. Through this we can measure small steps of progress being made. Across the school we promote cultural capital through building on our student's knowledge, experiences and interests.

Impact - What can we achieve through this and what is the end result

Through our curriculum students make progress in their own individual learning programs. Through our rolling topic approach, students are able to show generalisation of their targets due to the way in which they are embedded in different areas of their learning. Students take pride in their work and their achievements and they are motivated to celebrate these with others. They have access to learning about lots of different topic areas that link to the world in which they live in as well cultural opportunities and experiences.