

Subjects Or Themes

Education

Whether to organise a curriculum by discipline or by cross-cutting theme.

Subject-based

- Each discipline has its own methods
- Sequencing follows the subject's logic
- Teacher subject expertise fits the structure
- Progression is easier to define
- Risk: pupils see no connections

Integrated or thematic

- Connections are made explicit
- Motivating and closer to real problems
- Fewer transitions for younger pupils
- Risk: the weakest subject fills the theme
- Risk: history reduced to the topic's decoration

THE DIFFERENCE THAT MATTERS

Integration works when every subject in the theme keeps its own rigour. It fails when the theme, rather than the discipline, sets the

Common in primary and in some secondary humanities. The evidence is mixed and depends heavily on implementation quality.