St Peter's Roman Catholic Primary School

History Class 4 Year A
Crime and Punishment
Substantive Concept: Justice and Equality
Disciplinary Concept: Consequence

Summative Question: How have the ways we catch and punish criminals changed over time, and what are the consequences of these changes?

What is this topic about? In this unit, we will find out about the legacy of the Roman justice system and crime and punishment through the Anglo-Saxon, Tudor and Victorian periods. We will also compare modern day crime prevention and detection methods with those from the past, then reflect upon and evaluate what we have learnt in this unit by discussing whether these changes have been improvements.

During this topic, pupils will discover:
- Common crimes today and how they are punished.
- Crimes and punishments have changed over time.
- What the Roman justice system was like and examples of Roman crimes and punishments.
- How the Anglo-Saxons and Vikings used weregild and other punishments.
- What crimes and punishments were like in medieval and Tudor times, and why some new laws were introduced.
- Why people committed crimes like smuggling, poaching, and highway robbery, and what punishments they faced.
- How life in Victorian times led to new types of crime and punishments such as prisons and transportation.
- How crimes and punishments in the 20th and 21st centuries are different from the past.
- Ideas about justice and fairness have changed.



- **During this topic, pupils will work historically to:**
- Demonstrate knowledge of an aspect or theme in British history that extends their chronological knowledge beyond 1066.
- Describe key aspects of crimes, punishments, and justice in different times and societies.
- Use dates and historical terms when putting events, laws and punishments in order.
- Analyse links and contrasts within and across different periods, including short-term and long-term changes in crime and justice.
- Ask and answer historically valid questions about crimes, punishments and justice in the past.
- Describe the impact of historical events and changes on people and society.
- Use appropriate historical vocabulary when describing and explaining crimes, punishments and justice.
- Construct informed responses to historical questions using selected and organised evidence, including dates and key terms.
- Choose the most appropriate way of showing historical findings, such as a timeline, storyboard or

Key Knowledge (linked to concepts). What children NEED to know.
In the past, catching and punishing criminals was very different from today. The Romans and Anglo-Saxons often used cruel punishments like whipping, cutting off body parts or execution, and villagers had to chase criminals themselves. In Tudor times, even children could be hanged for stealing, and punishments were harsher for the poor than for the rich. In Victorian times, things began to change with the creation of the police force, which made catching criminals more organised and fair. Punishments became less brutal, with prisons and hard labour instead of death for many crimes, and children were treated differently from adults. Today, the police use evidence, CCTV and science like DNA testing to catch criminals, and punishments are usually prison, community service or fines. These changes have mostly been improvements because the system is now fairer, less cruel and tries to help people change.

Prior Learning: Justice and Equality: War and Remembrance (KS1), Florence Nightingale (KS1). Consequence: The Roman Empire and its impact on Britain (KS2).
Connectivity: The Roman Empire and its impact on Britain (KS2), Britain's settlement by Anglo-Saxons and Scots (KS2), The Changing Power of Monarchs (KS2), The Victorians and the Industrial Revolution (KS1/2).

Key Vocabulary		
civilisation	justice	wereguild
similarity	transportation	highway robbery
difference	fine	medieval