



## **EYFS Understanding the World – National Curriculum Link History**

At Westfield we value the importance of teaching the concept of 'Understanding the World' to enable children to make sense of and celebrate our world and our communities.

We believe developing understanding of the world through high quality teaching and planning of first-hand experiences and opportunities will be a building block to children's success.

We aim to instil a love of learning about our world, ensuring children celebrate and respect differences within cultures and communities, and show an understanding and care for our natural world and changes that occur within it.

Our outstanding practice at Westfield aims to create rich, authentic experiences through visits, books and high-quality teaching to ensure children have an exceptional knowledge and understanding of our diverse world.

We aim to meet the requirement of the EYFS (2021) curriculum and believe that:

- *Understanding the world involves guiding children to make sense of their physical world and their community.*
- *The frequency and range of children's personal experiences increases their knowledge and sense of the world around them*
- By listening to a broad selection of stories, non-fiction, rhymes and poems will foster their understanding of our culturally, socially, technologically and ecologically diverse world; helps them to make sense of the world around them.
- By building important knowledge and extending their familiarity with words we believe we will support understanding across the strands and make important links with other areas of the curriculum.
- Understanding of the world will enrich and widen children's vocabulary and support later reading comprehension.



## History in The Early Years Foundation Phase

### Development Matters

#### Physical development, Expressive Arts and Design

##### Nursery

Begin to make sense of their own life-story and family's history.  
Continue developing positive attitudes about the differences between people.  
Talk about the differences they have experienced or seen in photos.

##### Reception

Comment on images of familiar situations in the past. Compare and contrast characters from stories, including figures from the past.  
Talk about the lives of people around them and their roles in society.  
Know some similarities and differences between things in the past and now, drawing on their experiences and what has been read in class.  
Understand the past through settings, characters and events encountered in books read in class and storytelling.

### IMPLEMENTATION

#### See EYFS Curriculum Documents on website.

- Ongoing throughout the year through carefully planned Continuous Provision activities.
- Carefully planned activities to learn and extend specific knowledge linked to the Understanding the World curriculum.
- Reading – exposure to a wide range of Fiction and Non-fiction texts, broadening understanding of the world, cultures and our past and present community.
- At Westfield we encourage parents to support Understanding the World with their child at home by:-  
Providing a range of different fiction and non-fiction reading books to share and enjoy with their child.  
Encouraging parents to discuss and share their own thoughts and ideas about the topics we are teaching, encouraging consistency between school and home.  
Sensitively exploring cultural heritage and celebrating children's diversity and family history.