



EYFS Understanding the World – National Curriculum Link Religious Education

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.



Religious Education in The Early Years Foundation Phase

Development Matters

Communication and Language, Personal Social and Emotional Development Understanding the World

Nursery and Reception	<p>Develop their sense of responsibility and membership of a community.</p> <p>Continue to develop positive attitudes about the differences between people.</p> <p>See themselves as a valuable individual. Think about the perspectives of others.</p> <p>Talk about members of their immediate family and community.</p> <p>Name and describe people who are familiar to them.</p> <p>Understand that some places are special to members of their community.</p> <p>Recognise that people have different beliefs and celebrate special times in different ways.</p> <p>Show sensitivity to their own and others' needs. Talk about the lives of the people around them and their roles in society.</p> <p>Understand the past through settings, characters and events encountered in books read in class and storytelling.</p> <p>Know some similarities and differences between different religious and cultural communities in this country, drawing on their experiences and what has been read in class.</p>
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IMPLEMENTATION

- Access to a wide range of resources that build knowledge and create an awe and wonder about the world.
- Open ended resources ready to be explored which allow children to observe, investigate and ask questions about the world and our communities.
- Quality role play areas, to build on first-hand experiences and represent our world and community.
- Carefully planned activities to learn and extend specific knowledge linked to the Understanding the World curriculum.
- Visits from local community workers – highlighting the importance of different roles in the community.
- 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.