



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

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.



## Science in The Early Years Foundation Phase

### Development Matters

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

<b>Nursery</b>	<p>Understand 'why' questions, like: "Why do you think the caterpillar got so fat?"</p> <p>Make healthy choices about food, drink, activity and toothbrushing.</p> <p>Use all their senses in hands-on exploration of natural materials.</p> <p>Explore collections of materials with similar and/or different properties.</p> <p>Talk about what they see, using a wide vocabulary.</p> <p>Begin to make sense of their own life-story and family's history. Explore how things work.</p> <p>Plant seeds and care for growing plants. Understand the key features of the life cycle of a plant and an animal.</p> <p>Begin to understand the need to respect and care for the natural environment and all living things.</p> <p>Explore and talk about different forces they can feel.</p> <p>Talk about the differences between materials and changes they notice</p>
<b>Reception</b>	<p>Learn new vocabulary.</p> <p>Ask questions to find out more and to check what has been said to them.</p> <p>Articulate their ideas and thoughts in well-formed sentences.</p> <p>Describe events in some detail.</p> <p>Use talk to help work out problems and organise thinking and activities, and to explain how things work and why they might happen.</p> <p>Use new vocabulary in different contexts</p> <p>Know and talk about the different factors that support their overall health and wellbeing: - regular physical activity - healthy eating - toothbrushing - sensible amounts of 'screen time' - having a good sleep routine - being a safe pedestrian</p> <p>Explore the natural world around them.</p> <p>Describe what they see, hear and feel while they are outside.</p>

Recognise some environments that are different to the one in which they live. Understand the effect of changing seasons on the natural world around them.

## IMPLEMENTATION

- Provision for Understanding the world is catered for daily in our classroom across the areas of continuous provision.
- 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.
- Investigation areas – awe and wonder tables – find out about the materials and natural resources around them.
- Support at home through 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.