



Understanding the World

Intent

Understanding the world focuses on helping children make sense of their physical world and community. The frequency and range of children's personal experiences increases their knowledge and sense of the world around them; from visiting parks, libraries and museums to meeting important members of society such as police officers, nurses and firefighters. In addition, 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. As well as building important knowledge, this extends their familiarity with words that support understanding across domains. Enriching and widening children's vocabulary will support later reading comprehension.

We want children to:

- explore the lives of people that are familiar to them
- explore past historical events
- develop an appreciation of people in the community and recognition of different beliefs and traditions
- respect themselves, their peers and adults
- be aware of and understand how people help us in the community
- question how things work, why and comment on similarities and differences
- develop a 'have a go' attitude and test things out

Implementation

We provide opportunities to explore the outside environment with group walks to the shops, parks, post box and Church. We use planned themes and also capture unplanned moments that happen during the daily routine and have lots of opportunities for children to investigate, explore and experiment.

Adults will model language and encourage children to ask questions, test out what they would like to do, carry out investigations and experiments, talking about what has happened and what they have seen.

We do this by:

- outdoor play – exploring the mud kitchen, planting our own vegetables and plants. Children observe the cause and effect of living things growing, how and why this happens
- having British values embedded in our curriculum and practice. We respect the diverse faiths and cultures in our community; celebrating the importance of festivals and religious faith through talk, books, craft activities and prayers.
- inviting people who work in the community such as firefighters, police officers and dentists, to visit preschool to about their important work and how they help us.
- celebrating important events in the children's lives
- talking to children about their lives outside of the preschool setting. Children will talk about special memories and can share these through photos and pictures
- planned 'themes' to capture and implement learning opportunities to teach children about living things, natural world, and new life. During the year these themes may include plants, animals, weather, seasons, ourselves and minibests. These learning opportunities are revisited over time so children gain a good knowledge base.
- regular visits to a nearby spinney to enjoy 'hands on' exploration and learning about the natural world.
- trips out in the local environment both planned and unplanned. These include visiting the local park, library, shops and church. Children look at what is around them and talk about what they see, developing an appreciation of the world and community that we live in and share.

Impact

By the time children leave St Joseph's Preschool we want them to:

- respect their peers and adults
- talk about who is special to them
- share their experiences and memories of what they have done
- explore, investigate and talk about the natural world
- talk about the roles the of people who help us and people in our communities
- make relationships with their peers
- understand that their actions can have consequences
- be able to use technology programmes to support their learning
- talk about why things happen and how things work.

Key Vocabulary

Nature, families, Explore, inside, outside, seeds, plants, grow, water, soil, police, doctors, emergency services, occupation, jobs, season, winter, summer, spring, autumn, grow, look after, sun, people, community, church, park,