



Hart Hill Nursery School

Understanding the World Policy

Including Religious Education

Updated Summer Term 2024

Ratified by SLT on 20.5.2024

Signed 

To be updated Summer Term 2027



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Understanding the World Policy

Including Religious Education at Hart Hill Nursery School

What is Understanding the World in the Foundation Stage?

Development Matters 2020 states 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 – 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.

Understanding the World is a specific area of learning that helps children strengthen and apply the Prime Areas of Learning.

Our overall aim for children at Hart Hill Nursery School is that:

Children will have hands on and real life experiences to enhance their understanding and increase their knowledge and sense of the world.

Effective Teaching and Learning within Understanding the World at Hart Hill Nursery School

Children learn by:

- exploring a stimulating and well-resourced classroom that has been carefully planned by class teachers and practitioners
- accessing resources, adult led sessions and child initiated learning that have been planned by practitioners based on children's interests and ensuring there is a progression of skills
- having access to a variety of tools and equipment which they are taught to use safely and appropriately
- having the opportunity to explore our local environment through a range of educational visits
- being encouraged to talk about their knowledge and understanding of the world around them
- celebrating and talking about festivals that are celebrated within our school community
- being encouraged to find out information in a variety of ways e.g. looking at books, using technology, exploring resources, asking questions

At Hart Hill Nursery School, Practitioners:

- Maintain children's interest in topics by planning adult led sessions, opportunities and child initiated activities that are appropriate to children's levels of development
- Plan with consideration of children's interests to stimulate discussion and provide language rich opportunities
- Foster positive attitudes towards Understanding the World through responding to children's awe and wonder with enthusiasm whilst modelling research and enquiry skills
- Use open-ended questions to encourage deeper thinking, speculation and questioning
- Plan educational visits that provide children with the opportunity to have first-hand experiences of the local natural and man-made environment
- Develop children's understandings of festivals and beliefs through utilising the knowledge of the staff and parents within the school community
- Provide a rich and stimulating environment in which children can make discoveries and investigate
- Engaging children in reading a wide range fiction and non-fiction books, providing the opportunity to use and embed new words
- Creating a language rich environment supporting the themes, interests and experiences that children can relate to
- Provide a differentiated curriculum to ensure accessibility to the curriculum for all children

Planning for Understanding the World

Planning at Hart Hill Nursery School is devised in line with the EYFS Statutory Guidance, Development Matters 2020 and from observation and assessment of children's needs. It also takes into account:

- Medium and long term planning linked to Understanding the World ensuring curriculum coverage and progression of skills over time
- Short term weekly plans focusing on specific, differentiated skills and key vocabulary
- Contracts of Education outlining individual targets for all children
- Assessments, Pupil Progress meetings and Contracts of Education
- Targets on School Development Plan
- Pupil Premium and PEP targets

Record Keeping and Assessment

Key workers will ensure that assessments take place through observation of the children during Child Initiated Learning, adult led activities and through conversations with parents. Positive verbal feedback should be given to pupils about their progress.

Key workers will update assessments using the school's assessment framework at least termly and feedback to class teachers/room leads so that they can monitor and update future planning.

Children's targets will be regularly updated and assessed by individual key workers; this will be overlooked by the class teachers and room leaders to ensure consistency. Where progress or attainment is not in line with school expectations, this will be highlighted in pupil progress meetings with a member of the senior leadership team to ensure that gaps in learning are narrowed and concerns are monitored.

Monitoring the Policy

The Understanding the World co-ordinator will undertake observations of practitioners, children and environments. The co-ordinator will complete gap analysis using assessment data with the support of the Head Teacher and create an action plan accordingly. The co-ordinator will also monitor long, medium and short term planning to ensure it is meeting the needs of the cohort. The co-ordinator, with the support of SLT will report findings to the Governing Body at least annually.