

Geography EYFS Subject Overview 2026-2027

Nursery – Understanding The World

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.

Intent

- Making relationships and sharing how they are the same/different to others.
- Continue to develop positive attitudes about the differences between people.
- Explore different clothes and when they should be worn – weather.
- Begin to understand the need to respect and care for the natural environment and all living things.
- Know that there are different countries in the world and talk about the differences they have experienced or seen in photos.
-

Implementation

- Talk about the differences they notice between people and share the similarities and differences between different families and communities.
- Look at different appearances such as skin colours and hair types.
- Look at differences between families and communities.
- Explore the changing seasons – name and explore what clothes they should wear for different weathers.
- Provide interesting natural environments for the children to explore freely.
- Look at similarities and differences between ours and other countries.

Reception – Understanding The World

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.

Intent

- Talk about their family and community.
- Understand the effect of changing seasons on the natural world around them.
- Recognise some similarities and differences between life in this country and life in other countries.
- Explore the natural world around them.
- Describe what they see, hear and feel whilst outside.
- Recognise some environments that are different to the one in which they live.
- Draw information from a simple map.

Implementation

- Talk about where they live – Look at the different homes people live in; What homes do people live in in other countries?
- Use images, video clips, shared texts and other resources to bring the wider world into the classroom.
- Encourage interactions with the outdoors to foster curiosity and give children freedom to touch, smell and hear the natural world around them during hands-on experiences.
- Looking at the seasonal changes happening – Autumn.
- Looking at the seasonal changes happening – Spring.
- Explore the world around us and see how it changes as we enter Summer.
- Provide opportunities for children to note and record the weather.
- Discuss how they got to school and what mode of transport they used.
- Introduce the children to a range of transport and where they can be found.
- Introduce the children to a range of transport and where they can be found.
- Use google maps – draw their own.
- Introduce the children to recycling and how it can take care of our world. Look at what rubbish can do to our environment and animals. Create opportunities to discuss how we care for the natural world around us.

Early learning goals for the end of reception – Understanding The World

People, Culture and Communities

- Describe their immediate environment using knowledge from observation, discussion, stories, non-fiction texts and maps.
- 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.
- Explain some similarities and differences between life in this country and life in other countries, drawing on knowledge from stories, non-fiction texts and – when appropriate – maps.

The Natural World

- Explore the natural world around them, making observations and drawing pictures of animals and plants.
- Know some similarities and differences between the natural world around them and contrasting environments, drawing on their experiences and what has been read in class.
- Understand some important processes and changes in the natural world around them, including the seasons and changing states of matter.