

EYFS – Reception Curriculum Map

Understanding of the World: The Natural World (Geography)



Valued – Inspired – Prepared



Westhaven School is a unique learning environment with high expectations for learners who experience barriers to learning for a range of reasons. We promote a calm environment which enables everyone to learn. The golden thread that permeates our curriculum and our conduct through every school day are the core values which shape our learners to be:

- *safely independent*
- *confident communicators*
- *respectful citizens*
- *resilient learners*
- *inquisitive thinkers*

The Westhaven Way is our ethos and it underpins our daily approach to behaviour and learning.

Our vision

Our aim is to provide:

- strong warm and supportive relationships enabling all learners to thrive socially and emotionally
- expert teaching of an engaging curriculum
- high quality adult interactions within a carefully constructed, purposeful environment
- high quality continuous provision indoors and outdoors
- a rich reading environment with high quality texts, representing our children, their interests and the diversity of the world around them
- a robust approach to the teaching of phonics
- continuous assessment of learning and addressing gaps to support and challenge each individual

The characteristics of effective teaching and learning will be threaded throughout our ambitious curriculum

- **playing and exploring** – learners will investigate and experience things, and ‘have a go’;
- **active learning** – learners will concentrate and keep on trying if they encounter difficulties, and enjoy their achievements for their own sake;
- **creating and thinking critically** – learners will have and develop their own ideas, make links between ideas, and develop strategies for doing things.

Impact

- Learners fluency and mastery incrementally improves
- Learners know more, remember more and can do more
- Learners achieve to the best of their ability and level of development and are prepared for their next stage in education

EYFS The Natural World Educational Programme (Statutory)

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.

ELG: The Natural World (Statutory)

Children at the expected level of development will:

- 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.

EYFS Geography Skills (Taken from Development Matters)

Birth to three

- Explore natural materials; indoors and outdoors

3 and 4 year olds

- Use all their senses in hands-on exploration of natural materials.
- Know that there are different countries in the world and talk about the differences they have experienced or seen in photos.

Children in reception

- Draw information from a simple map
- 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 from the one in which they live.
- Understand the effect of changing seasons on the natural world around them.