



## **Ashfield Nursery – Understanding the World Intent and Implementation**

Emphasis on developing children's Knowledge and Understanding of the World are an integral part of the teaching and learning experiences provided at Ashfield. This specific area of the curriculum has been significantly shaped by our unique environment and reflective of the diverse community of which we serve. We acknowledge that for some of our families access to green space can be quite limited therefore our garden is often one of our most admired and enjoyed features, it is widely used to deliver learning across the curriculum and to bring our families together in sporting and annual fun day events. We are committed to providing rich experiences within the outdoors for all children attending Ashfield we recognise that children are naturally curious when exploring the garden as they are surrounded by awe and wonder. The outdoor environment naturally lends itself to helping to develop children's sense of pattern and recognition of changes over time.

Children begin to learn about birthday celebrations within our 2-year-old unit where we talk about birthdays, and gradually introduce some cultural celebrations. These, are then built on within main nursery as the children explore wider cultural knowledge and celebrations. Children begin to understand fundamental British values through embracing each-others cultures during times of celebration with interest and curiosity. Throughout the year we celebrate and share all festival's which are special to our families including Eid, Diwali, Christmas, Chinese New Year and Easter. Parents enjoy contributing to our celebrations through sharing knowledge, food, clothing and objects of interest and the children begin to understand more about themselves and their peers as we talk about these traditions together.

All children have daily access to small world, role play and construction areas which provide children with the tools they require to make sense of the world around them, introducing them to a range of animals, cultures and technologies. Technology is embraced as a part of daily play from interaction with cause and effect toys in our 2-year-old provision, through to developing skills using more advanced technologies such as iPads, cameras and interactive whiteboards.

Children's experiences are recorded within the learning journeys which are available for parents and children daily to look at. Children become reflective, reviewing their own experiences and realising what they achieve and recognising what they now know, as their learning has progressed and become embedded.

Play in the outdoors happens daily and is encouraged in all weathers so children can continue to observe natural changes to the environment throughout the seasons. Within our 2-year-old provision outdoor areas are used daily, providing space for exercise and discovery in a safe contained environment. Planted areas and shady spots become the perfect environment for hunting

for bugs. As children grow, they begin to venture into our large garden. Children are able to play freely in our large garden with accompanying forest area, mud kitchen, grassed spaces, sculpted willow nooks and fairy trees. The garden becomes a magical place to explore which provides a wide array of additional natural learning opportunities across the wider curriculum. Adults are available to support discussions, extend opportunities and facilitate their discoveries.

Each class has its own plot in the nursery allotment where children learn and participate in the planting and growing process, from seed, to tasting what they have watched grow. Children learn how to care for their environment, through practical activities in both small and large groups. We also have strong links with a project called 'Seed's for Life' based at the local Elswick Women and Girls Centre where children take part in a series of growing and cooking projects.

As a school we see the importance of taking our children out into the world to extend their experiences. Throughout the year we visit the park, the fire station, the library, Hawthorn Primary School, pantomimes and the farm, all of which provide real life experiences which help to develop children's knowledge of the world around them, and how to stay safe. We also have visits to nursery from the police, nursing staff, the dentist and dog safety workers who provide concrete experiences for the children building on what they have heard from staff through stories and play.

Our strong local links allow us to take learning beyond the classroom sharing wonderful experiences with our families, where we can make memories that will last far beyond where nursery ends.