



### **What does Understanding the World look like in Early Years at the NCEA Trust?**

At NCEA Trust we want children to be able to understand and make sense of their world and people who live and work in their community. To help the children to be able to do this, we give them opportunities to have first-hand experiences exploring their local environment. They learn about the changes in seasons, identifying plants and animals. This is then extended for children to begin to understand the wider world and look at similarities and differences in other environments.

As well as similarities and differences in people's lives and to develop positive attitudes towards others, they will begin to recognise that people have different beliefs and celebrations. Children will use books, photographs and artefacts to gain an understanding of the past and how they can relate these to their own experiences. They will be taught about growing and life cycles as well as the properties of different materials. They will have the opportunity to explore how different things work and learn about different forces.

All of these different aspects will help them to understand the world more, by extending their knowledge and help them to develop new and specific vocabulary.

### **Understanding the World in Reception:**

In Reception we encourage children to talk about their families and people that are familiar to them. We explore the past through stories, artefacts and pictures and compare their experiences which may be different to those in the past.

The children talk about where they live and have first-hand opportunities to explore their local area. They create simple maps and compare different environments.

We teach children to recognise and respect that different people have different beliefs and people's lives in different countries may have similarities and differences to their own lives.

The children have regular opportunities to explore the natural world around them. They are encouraged to observe closely and describe different materials, plants and animals and will learn about the responsibility we share in taking care of them. They also gain an understanding of different weathers and seasonal features.