



Understanding the World Policy

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1. Rationale

Understanding the world helps us to develop our understanding of our environment and other people, features of the natural and man-made world.

2. Aims

- To enable pupils to develop the knowledge, skills and understanding they need to make sense of the world.
- To promote learning through direct experience.
- To enable learning to be developmentally appropriate and interesting.
- To develop pupils' sense of self and the effect they have on the environment.
- To provide opportunities to develop investigative skills.
- To promote attitudes of curiosity, excitement, confidence and anticipation.
- To enable pupils to try out new ideas in a safe and secure environment.
- To build connections with why things happen and how things work.

3. Main Content

Understanding the World will:

- Provide pupils with first hand experiences that encourage observation, exploration, prediction, problem solving, decision making and discussion.
- Provide a range of indoor and outdoor activities that stimulate pupils' curiosity and interest.
- Provide opportunities pupils to become aware of the similarities and differences between themselves and other people and to understand that all people deserve to be treated with respect.
- Provide support in helping children communicate and record their observations and predictions orally, by signing and with use of symbols.

4. Equal Opportunities and Special Needs

The topics chosen and the delivery are all encompassing and value the different cultures and needs of the pupils and staff at Castlebar. Work is differentiated and allows all pupils access to learning. A variety of different resources and techniques are used to inspire and enable pupils to be involved in the learning.

5. Methodology for Teaching and Learning

Each department will follow its topic based curriculum map. The maps are designed to work on a two year cycle.

- The Understanding the World Development Matters Reception Assessment Summary covers People & Communities, The World and Technology.
- Subject areas covered in Understanding the World are History/Geography, DT.

Topic, Objective and activity planning takes place on a half termly basis. These plans are produced by staff teams and are accessible to all staff. Curriculum maps are available on T-share.

6. Pupil Progress and Achievement-tracking and assessment

- Teachers to record baseline and end of year achievement according to P-Scales in areas of History and Geography. Levels recorded and saved in a file in 'SIMS'.
- Teachers of Reception children to record baseline and end of year assessment levels according to the 'Development Matters' statements.
- Annotated work will be collected from each department on a termly basis.
 - Team Leaders will be asked to include UW in moderation sessions
- Termly moderation INSET sessions take place with whole school teaching staff, to ensure consistency in judgements.
- Photographic evidence will be collected by co-ordinators.
- Planning will be monitored by co-ordinators termly.

7. Resources

- Resources will be audited & re-allocated where necessary. New resources will be ordered to cover new topics in curriculum maps.
- Resources stored centrally in 'topic' boxes in UW cupboard in the library area.

Above information will be recorded & kept in the UW file.

8. Computing

Computing will enhance the delivery of the UW curriculum. Differentiated activities geared to or designed for the pupils' needs will ensure that their learning experiences will be more interesting, rewarding and challenging. (See separate Computing policy).

9. Parent/Carer Support

- Parents will receive information about topics being covered at school. They will be informed of the progress and experiences their children have had in parent meetings and in the Annual Review meeting.
- Throughout the year they will receive letters, photographs, Newsletters outlining the experiences and opportunities their children are participating in.
- They will be invited to assemblies, shows and other events taking place in the school. Their participation and help will be encouraged.

Castlebar School

May 2018

RATIFIED BY THE GOVERNING BODY ON: 11th May 2018

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