

Philosophy for Children (P4C) Policy

P4C is an approach to learning and teaching, now a recognised worldwide movement and practice. Children are taught how to create their own philosophical questions. They then choose one question that is the focus of a philosophical enquiry, or dialogue. For example, the question might be 'is it ever ok to steal?'

The teacher, as facilitator, supports the children in their thinking, reasoning and questioning, as well as the way the children speak and listen to each other in the dialogue. After the enquiry the children and facilitator reflect on the quality of the thinking, reasoning and participation, and suggest how they could improve; either as individuals or as a group (community).

P4C is intended to be a regular activity so that the children develop their skills and understanding over time. The role of the facilitator is crucial to ensuring quality dialogue and progress, as well as integration with the curriculum.

It is well documented that P4C has an impact on children's cognitive, social and emotional development. **P4C is about getting children to think and communicate well; to think better for themselves.**

At Lewis St Primary School

P4C will take place **bi-weekly** in every class.

From Year 1 – 6 all classes will use the **10 Step** model for P4C in most sessions. This might not happen until Spring Term in Year 1. For a reminder of the 10 Steps see p10 SAPERE Level One Handbook.

The **4Cs** will be focussed on throughout the year (caring, collaborative, creative and critical)

Talk Prompts will be used as part of P4C to promote dialogue eg. *I disagree with..*

Each class will have a P4C display area within their classroom to promote P4C.

Each class will record their P4C sessions in a class book/web page.

The P4C Leader at each school will carry out informal observations to identify strong practice and support needs.

The P4C Leader at each school will organise a whole school display/web page about P4C.

The P4C Leader at each school will organise P4C resources in a central place.

A P4C governor will be identified.

P4C in EYFS and the LEAF

There will be a daily question eg. Would you rather live in a castle or a cave? Children will all choose and say their reasons either to an adult or peer. In EYFS parents and carers will do this with their child at the beginning of the day as a sign in activity.

P4C skills can also be developed during Chat and Play eg. You Choose book, Odd one out activities.

Teachers will carry out skills activities and gradually build up to dialogue in a thinking circle related to a stimulus (there is no need to follow the 10 Steps).