

PHILOSOPHY FOR CHILDREN (P4C)

At Crofton Hammond Infant School, we use Philosophy for Children (P4C) in our classrooms as an integrated part of our curriculum. It is a pedagogical approach to teaching and learning that helps children to develop into critical and creative thinkers and to take responsibility for their own learning in a caring and collaborative way. It develops good thinking, questioning and communications skills and, more importantly, allows children a safe space to become better at reasoning and being reasonable with each other.

Our P4C sessions can form part of any lesson, but in particular they are used during the teaching of RE to allow the children to think more deeply about the concept we are teaching. P4C may form part of our History, Geography, English, Maths, Science or PDL (Personal Development) learning. In Early Years teachers use Chatterbox Time to explore philosophical questions and they ask children to justify their choices with reasons. During our P4C sessions, children and their teacher share a stimulus, for example, a story, film clip, or picture, and they then take thinking time to devise their own questions and together the class chooses one question to enquire into further.

With experience, children's questions get deeper and more thoughtful. The children's discussions become more disciplined and focused yet, at the same time, more imaginative. The approach not only helps to develop creative and critical thinking skills but also encourages children to care more about what others say and develop the ability to recognise differences and explore these collaboratively.

The aim of P4C is to help children to develop the skills that will enable them to contribute as responsible citizens of the future. This fits closely with our vision of a 'Crofton Learner', where we wish to create a caring school and classroom environment in which children learn to listen to and respect each other. This also aligns with the government's focus on promoting fundamental British Values: democracy, individual liberty, and mutual respect and tolerance of those with different beliefs and faiths. P4C also plays a strong role in the delivery of our SMSC provision (Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural).

P4C helps to enhance the quality of learning as a whole and has been proven to raise standards of attainment and achievement. See:

<http://www.sapere.org.uk/AboutP4C/P4CImpact/P4CResearch.aspx>

Here are some examples of questions that have been explored:

The Rainbow Fish (PDL) – Is it important to please other people all the time? Should we change ourselves to become more popular? What makes a good friend?

Habitats (Science) – Can any animal live anywhere?

Scaredy Squirrel (PDL) – Is it always scary when things change?

Ideas about God (RE) – Do we need to see something to know that it is real?

The Mole who knew it was none of his business – Is it ever OK to take revenge?

If you would like to find out more, please visit www.sapere.org.uk or speak to Mrs Amanda Hughes (Year 2 Owls Teacher) who is a Level 2 qualified teacher of P4C and leads P4C at our school.