

Muswell Hill Primary School

Something New For Our Pupils

AGM 8.10.14

Joy + Discovery + Diversity





Session Objective

To update parents and carers on an addition to the curriculum this year at MHPS: Philosophy for Children.

Use of the AGM session time

- 1) **Why** Philosophy for Children?
- 2) **What** is Philosophy for Children and what are the benefits?
- 3) **How** does it work?
- 4) **When** will it begin?
- 5) **Where** will it take place in the curriculum?



What is Philosophy for Children?

- 1) **The facts:** launched in 1992, 40-50,000 children take part in P4C lessons as a part of their curriculum.
- 2) It is **not** about making children into Philosophers.
- 3) It is about effective teaching enabling children to think and reason as a group and individuals.
- 4) It is to enable speaking and listening to be developed.
- 5) It has significant benefits to learning in other areas of the curriculum.
- 6) It supplies opportunity for children to think, speak, listen and learn from each other.
- 7) Children consider other people's opinions and beliefs and share their own.



What are the benefits of P4C?

For Pupils:

- 1) Increased motivation to enquire and learn.
- 2) More critical and reflective learners.
- 3) Improved confidence and self esteem.
- 4) Enhanced oracy, literacy and numeracy.

For Teachers:

- 1) New questioning strategies
- 2) Greater pupil engagement
- 3) Another forum to be successful in the classroom



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How does it work?

- 1) Start with a stimulus, such as a story.
- 2) Children write questions about the story. This must be wider questions based on the stimulus not questions about the story.
- 3) For example, if the story is about friendship:

Great Question	Question about the stimulus
How do you know someone is your friend?	Was Jack friends with David?
Can you always be a good friend to someone?	What did Jack do to show his friendship to David?

- 4) Children consider which question they would like to discuss.
- 5) Children reason and think before discussing the question raised.
- 6) Children listen to each other's opinions and comment.
- 7) Children reflect.



How does it work?

An example from MHPS.



Why Philosophy for Children?

- 1) P4C vastly improves behaviour in the playground. This is not our primary reason at MHPS.
- 2) This vastly improves confidence because everybody 'gets a go.'
- 3) This supports understanding of difference and diversity. We can have different opinions and celebrate that difference.
- 4) Supports reasoning and reflection.
- 5) Encourages children to raise questions.



When will it begin?

- 1) It has started and will continue to embed this term.
- 2) Teachers fully trained and accredited.
- 3) Governor Open Morning in Spring 2015.
- 4) Ask your child what they have discussed... They may have told you already?



Where will it take place in the curriculum?

Year 6, 5 and 4 – 45 minutes a week

Year 3, 2 – 30 minutes a week

Year 1 and Reception – 20 minutes a week

It is a part of Circle Time/Personal, Social and Health Education and will replace parts of Golden Time.

Golden Time is a maximum of 1 hour a week across the phases of the school.



Any Questions?