

Philosophy for Children (P4C)



At Wadebridge School we are beginning to implement P4C into the PSHE (Personal Development) programme for Years 8 & 9 and it is hoped that once more staff are trained this will become an integral part of the curriculum for all key stages.

P4C is a structured session that begins with a stimulus. Students are encouraged to draw on their imagination to ask a question based on wonderment (I wonder why...?) and then make a collective decision on the question they are most interested in. The discussion is not contained; it follows its own path guided by the student's thoughts and ideas, agreeing and disagreeing, but always giving a reason for their point of view.

Benefits and Outcomes:

- A way to open up student's learning through enquiry and the exploration of ideas.
- Gives students the possibility of seeing that their ideas have value, and that others have different ideas that have value too.
- They realise that they don't always have to be right.
- They have the confidence to ask questions and learn through discussion.
- All learners (including teachers) have opportunities to genuinely enquire.
- A chance to speak and be heard without fear of getting an answer wrong.
- Intelligence grows.
- Gives students who are not considered "academic" a voice and a chance to flourish.
- Gives the "academic" student a chance to think outside the box and to see that the non-academic have inspiring ideas.
- Gives all students value.
- Provides lots of ideas for creative writing.
- Creates an enquiring classroom in all areas of the curriculum.
- Affects personal skills, and behaviour in the playground.
- Develops skills necessary for positions of responsibility (school council etc).
- Develops listening and reasoning skills.
- Develops independence.

Year 7 students have their first real taste of P4C during one of the PLTS workshop sessions during their first term at Wadebridge School.