



Introducing P4C

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P4C?

- Philosophy for Children or...
- Philosophy for Communities or...
- Philosophy with Children (PWC)



There are variations on the theme, but the theme is:-
enquiry into philosophical questions in a group ~ no previous experience required

Why do that?

- So that participants, (mostly pupils) can learn to think for themselves,

- Truly –

the business of P4C is to search for meanings that can stand up to robust challenge

- Sanelly-

the business of P4C is to look for a balanced view

- Deeply-

the business of P4C is to go beyond the superficial, or obvious view



What Pupils Say

- **Feedback from Children in the UK**
- "Philosophy relaxes me. If I'm worried, how can I learn anything? Because the class will respect my opinion, I can be myself and even change my mind without being laughed at." Ellie, aged 10
- "Philosophy helps me to think, and I need to think well if I want to learn." Megan, aged 9
- "I think philosophy should begin at school. It is good because it gives you time to think. It helps you to ask questions. It shows you that there can be many answers to one question." John, aged 10



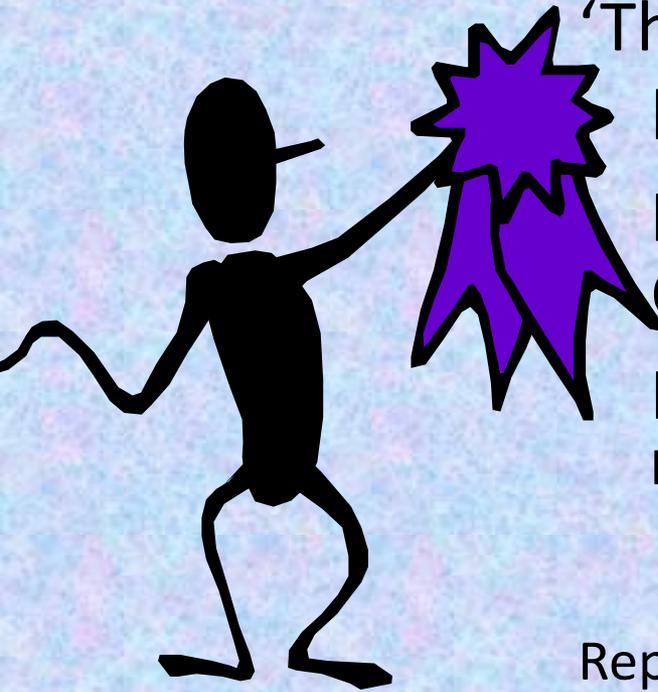
What Parents Say

- He has really enjoyed philosophy and quite often quoted things at home that he has learnt at school.
- Now she enjoys taking part in philosophical discussions at home, too! She has been learning how to learn and we feel this is a great asset for her future.
Her enthusiasm for learning has shone through, in particular in those subjects that involve some philosophy...
- **Quotes from Y4 parents, Westbury Park School, Bristol 2005**



What OFSTED says

Ofsted Inspection Report, St Luke's C of E Primary 14
January 2009:



'The curriculum for personal, social and health education PSHE, including a programme of 'Philosophy for Children,' greatly enhances pupils' personal development and well being.'

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Report of the Statutory Inspection of Anglican Schools, Diocese of London Board for Schools, 2 March 2009:



Some Research Findings

- **Clackmannanshire**

- Sample findings:

1. A whole population of children gained on average 6 standard points on a measure of cognitive abilities after 16 months of weekly enquiry.
2. Pupils and teachers perceived significant gains in communication, confidence, concentration, participation and social behaviour following 6 months of enquiry.
3. Pupils doubled their occurrence of supporting their views with reasons over a 6 month period.
4. Teachers doubled their use of open-ended questions over a six month period.
5. When pupils left primary school they did not have any further enquiry opportunities yet their improved cognitive abilities were still sustained two years into secondary school.
6. Pupils increased their level of participation in classroom discussion by half as much again following 6 months of weekly enquiry.

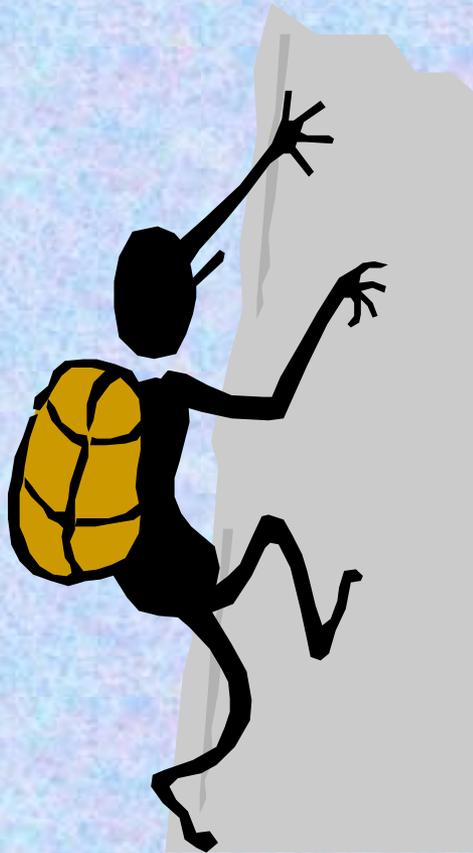


- **SHINE Trust Better Thinking for Better Learning Project**

- Sample findings:

- 1. 88% of children in the year 6 class improved on the Teacher Prediction for their end of Year Grade at KS2 Reading. 94% achieved or exceeded this with only 6% not achieving their predicted grade.
- 2. 62.5% of children exceeding the teacher's prediction for achievement at Maths SAT.
- 3. 26% of children achieved level 5 in Reading 69% of children achieved level 4 in Reading and 5% of children achieved level 3 in Reading from the children who attended the philosophy sessions throughout the project. 51% of the school population are on free school meals and 49.5% of the children have English as an additional language.
- 4. The focus group achieved 24% at level 5 in Maths, 64% at level 4, 6% at level 3 and 6% at level 2. The focus class has exceeded the National Average score for level 4 attainment as nationally 43% of children achieve a level 4 at Maths and in this class it is 64%.

But what *are* Philosophical Questions?



Questions that engage your brain, have no 'instant' answer, make you want to explore an idea.

For example:

What if friends only lasted for a week?

What is a friend?

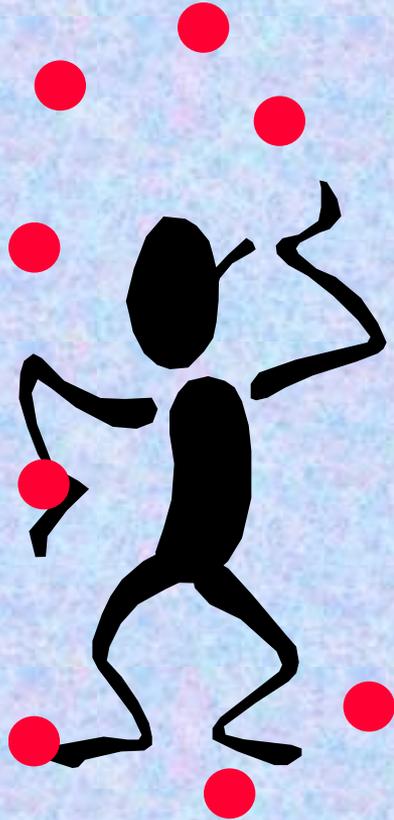
What does 'to make friends' mean?

Community of Enquiry Values

- Democratic
 - The group takes responsibility for the activity
- Open
 - There is a willingness to hear and evaluate all contributions
- Respectful
 - Community members may expect that they will be treated with respect at all times

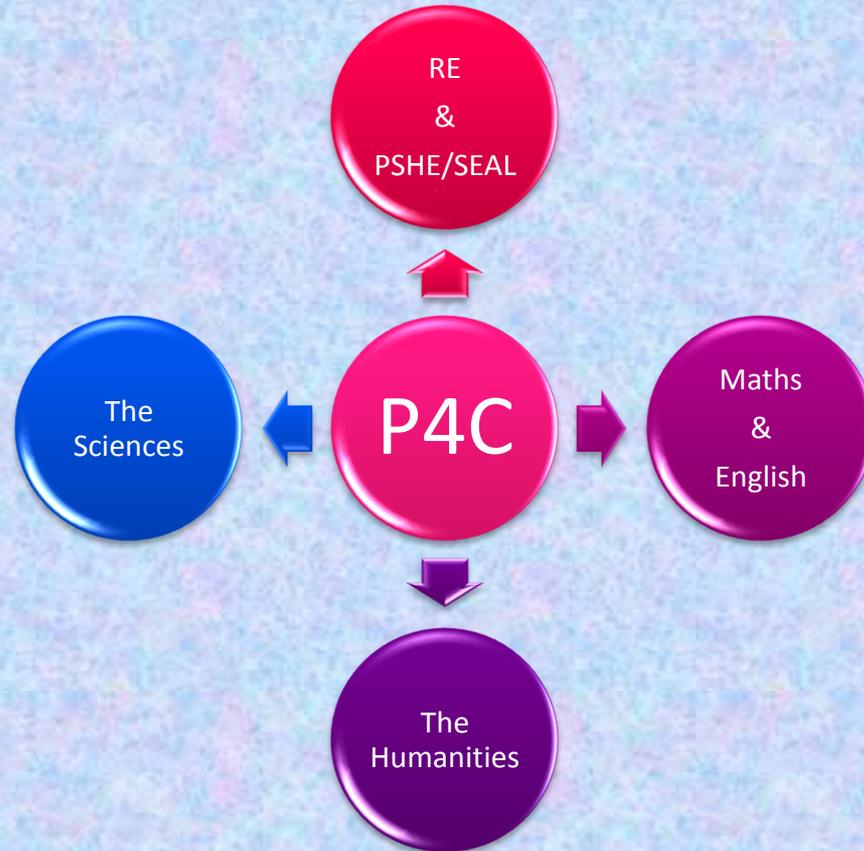


All well and good, but where does it fit in the curriculum?



- There is absolutely no need to timetable a new 'subject'.
- P4C is a methodology and very flexible.
- Wherever a deeper (philosophical) question can be asked, P4C can offer a framework for response.

Curriculum & P4C



RE/PSHE/SEAL

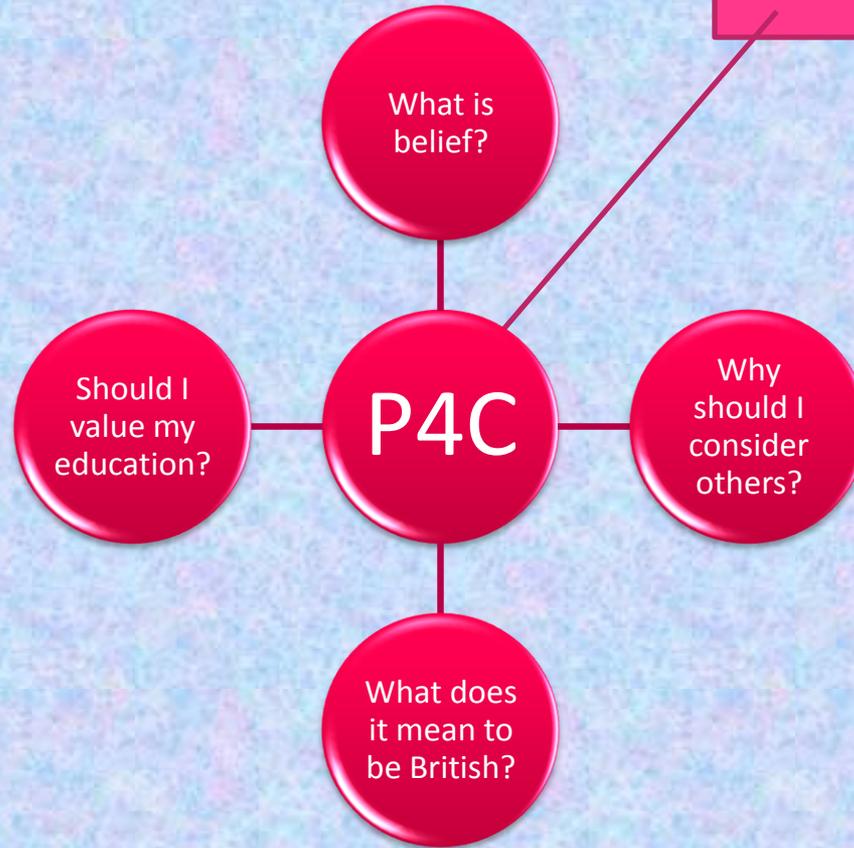
What is belief?

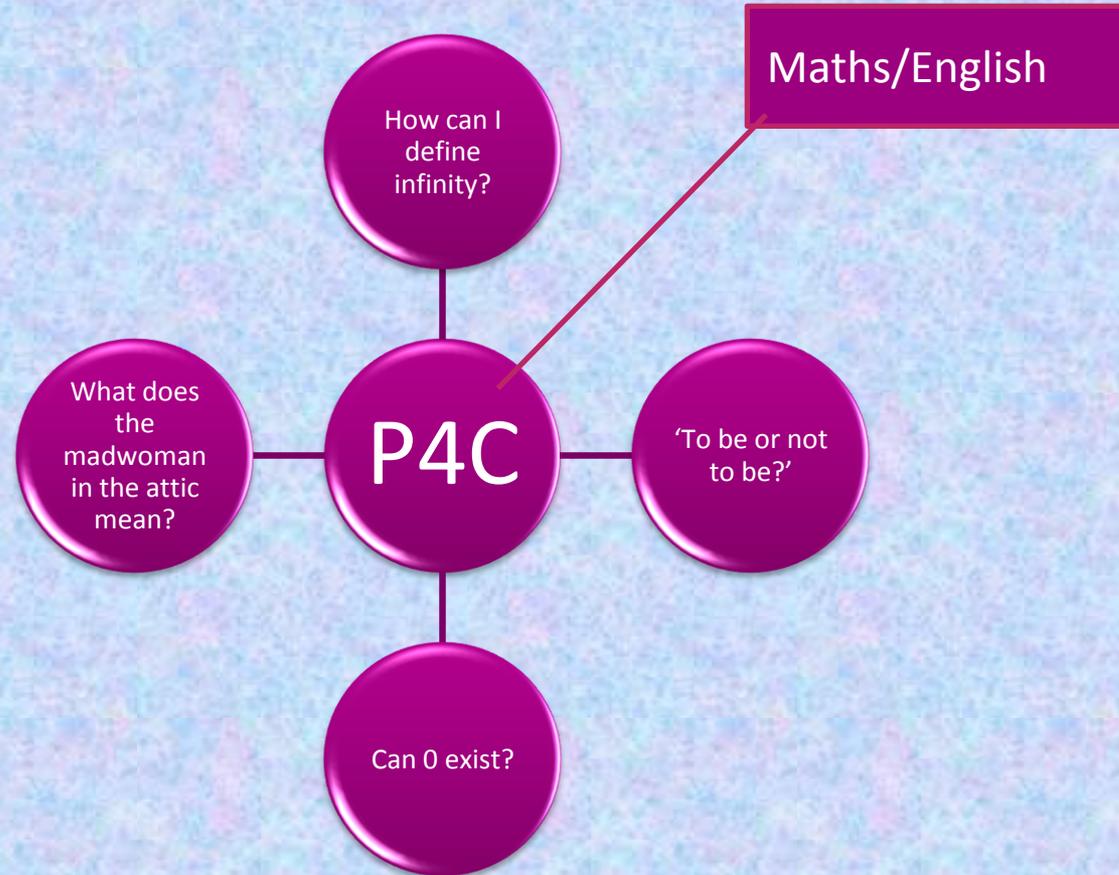
Should I value my education?

P4C

Why should I consider others?

What does it mean to be British?





The Humanities

