



Our Vision for P4C at St Matthew's Catholic Primary School

'Give a child a thought and they will think for a day, but teach a child to think and they will think for a lifetime.'

Over the past couple of years, the children at St Matthews have enjoyed and benefited from Philosophy for Children (P4C). Throughout philosophy learning, the teacher supports the children in their thinking, reasoning and questioning whilst facilitating or guiding an open dialogue between the children.

At St Matthew's, we recognise the importance of thinking as a basis for learning and utilise P4C to stimulate our children's thinking skills.

Within a philosophical enquiry, children practice being - **C**aring, **C**ollaborative, **C**ritical and **C**reative which are known as the 4C's. This helps to develop deeper thinking skills, improve communication and teaches children to co-operate with others. Children learn to reflect before speaking, allowing them to demonstrate understanding, respect and accuracy when communicating.

Philosophy at St Matthew's is taught across the curriculum and integrated throughout all National Curriculum subjects, providing huge benefits in the following areas:

- In Mathematics, our children are required to discuss their work in groups and explain why an answer is correct. As they progress, they will begin to explain their thinking journey and give examples.
- In Science, children are required to respond to suggestions and put forward their own ideas about how to find the answer to a question.
- In English, pupils talk and listen in different learning contexts. Children explore and communicate ideas whilst developing their listening, discussion, debate and questioning skills. Children can vary their use of vocabulary and level of detail to demonstrate an understanding of the subject. Reading and reading skills play an integral role in P4C. Children explore different reading

texts, including fiction and non-fiction, as a stimulus and use and develop their reading skills such as inference, deduction and clarification whilst analysing such stimuli and formulating appropriate questions.

- In History, children are encouraged to view multiple information sources including books, websites, artefacts and pictures, allowing them to develop their judgement and reasoning skills when considering the impact of these events on modern day life. Additionally, children are taught to understand and appreciate times and cultures not of their own.
- In Geography, children progress their understanding of environments and cultures allowing them to make reasoned, rational judgements and recognise the implications or affects that these have in the world.
- In RE, children learn about different religions and beliefs, demonstrating understanding and respect for others.