

## **Northcote Primary School**

### **Philosophy for Children (P4C) Policy**

#### **Rationale:**

At Northcote Primary School, we strive to help our pupils to be effective, critical and creative thinkers and to take responsibility for their own learning in a caring and collaborative environment.

We aim to do this by providing an enquiry based curriculum through Philosophy for Children (P4C) where pupils are encouraged to ask questions and find the answers through discussion, thereby developing the ability to recognise differences and explore these constructively.

In line with our mission statement ***Caring, Learning, Growing***, children develop the following skills:

**Caring:** listening (concentrating) and valuing (appreciating) (e.g. showing interest in, and sensitivity to, others' experiences and values)

**Learning:** Developing speaking and listening skills, taking turns, patience and respecting others.

**Growing:** Helping pupils sharpen their capacity to think critically and build on each other's thoughts.

#### **Our Aims are that:**

- We provide caring and collaborative classrooms where pupils learn to listen to, respect and question each other.
- Pupils are empowered through their learning to think for themselves.
- Pupils learn the skills to be clear in their thinking so that they can explain their ideas and give good reasons for their views.
- Pupils can test for truth by gathering information, evaluating evidence, examples and counter examples.
- Pupils can expand ideas by sustaining and extending lines of thought and argument.
- Pupils can summarise by abstracting key points or general rules from a number of ideas or instances.
- Pupils have a positive attitude to their learning and take responsibility for it.
- The school can use an enquiry based curriculum and P4C methods to raise standards of attainment.

- This approach will help to develop higher levels of self-esteem and intellectual confidence.
- P4C plays a vital part in our mission to promote the development of vocabulary by giving children engaging topics to discuss.
- P4C may be delivered as a discrete activity or linked to a specific topic.

**Current Framework:**

- Assessment is ongoing by all teachers to track progress through observations and questioning. Learning is evidenced through floor books which features photographs of the children taking part in the lessons. Our school twitter is a strong medium for sharing.
- Philosophy skills building activities will be incorporated into reading activities.
- An enquiry approach is conducted in a range of all curriculum subjects.

Topics are fluid of how they are taught and we tackle issues as they arise. For example, current topics.

- Ground-rules: Children are expected to be respectful of others opinions and comments. One person speaks at a time and they must listen to their views with a mature and sensible attitude.
- Our Social Values Curriculum promotes good morals and values. This is celebrated in assemblies through our Code of Conduct award each week.
- P4C is taught weekly through opportunities for purposeful cross curricular links and through stand-alone lessons as well as. For example, in R.E we explore a wide variety of beliefs and cultures. In History discussions about moral issues, cause /effect and consequences.
- In Shared reading for making right/wrong choices through stories.

**Future Development:**

That P4C becomes even more integrated into life at Northcote Primary School.

That Northcote Primary can promote its work in using P4C as part of reading.

**Members of staff responsible :**

**Mrs Ashton**

**Date Policy written:**

**October 2020**

**Date to be reviewed:**

**October 2022**

**Date approved by Governors:**

**Signature of Chair of Governors**