

Philosophy For Children

In Kilmoyle PS, pupils regularly participate in Philosophy for Children lessons. Philosophy for Children, which is sometimes abbreviated to P4C, aims to encourage pupils and teachers to think critically, caringly, creatively, and collaboratively. It helps teachers to build a “community of enquiry” where pupils create and explore their own questions about important things in life. Research evidence indicates the consistent use of P4C produces significant improvement in IQ scores, raises pupils’ self-esteem and confidence, and makes them more aware of their own and others’ feelings. In addition, P4C develops children’s talking and listening skills and contributes to the delivery of the PDMU (Personal Development and Mutual Understanding) element of the Northern Ireland Curriculum. Together with the other thinking approaches we use, P4C helps to develop the 5 strands of the Thinking Skills and Personal Capabilities aspect of the curriculum.

Five members of our staff have achieved Level 1 accredited training thorough SAPERE (The Society for the Advancement of Philosophical Enquiry and Reflection in Education). Parental engagement in our Philosophy for Children programme is encouraged through our “Philosophy Thursday” initiative when families participate in P4C discussions as a homework task on the last Thursday of the month.

The diagram below details each step in a classic P4C enquiry.

The basic structure of a P4C session

