



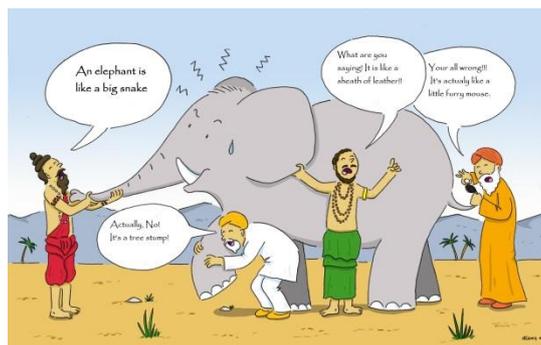
# Preparing Pupils FOR Life in Modern Britain

## Philosophy for Children(P4C), RE and British Values

RE/P4C teacher, Jane Yates and pupils from Armathwaite Community Primary School

P4C promotes **individual liberty** by enabling pupils to think for themselves. Pupils share a given stimulus then express their puzzlements and interests by generating questions. Some of these questions may form the basis for further research and expression, whilst philosophical questions are explored through shared reflection and enquiry.

P4C is a **democratic process** which is carefully facilitated to ensure that all pupils have a voice and are listened to by their peers. Generally, a single philosophical question is voted for by the children. This question is the starting point for a Community of Enquiry, where children can share their understanding and try out their ideas and opinions.



P4C promotes **mutual respect and tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs**. Through the regular practice of focussing on thinking skills and communal dialogue, pupils develop caring, collaborative, creative and critical thinking skills. Pupils are specifically taught, and review, how to reason and disagree respectfully. The Community of Enquiry provides a safe environment for pupils to try out their ideas and opinions.

P4C develops pupils' ability to generate philosophical questions, with a strong emphasis on exploring explicit and implicit concepts. Philosophical questions are common and central to the experiences of the pupils. They are often contestable and enable pupils to reflect on what is right and wrong, thus considering the **rule of law**. Research suggests that regular practice in P4C carries over into other lessons and can have an impact on behaviour.



# Armathwaite Community School

*"Schools have to embody democracy in the way they work and within the ethos and culture of the school – within a framework of rules and regulations which are there for the benefit of everyone."*

Malcolm Trobe, Association of School and College Leaders (ASCL)

Armathwaite Community Primary School is a small rural school in the Eden Valley. It has a strong ethos of child-led learning and pupil voice, involving its pupils in many aspects of the running and development of the school. Over ten years ago, all staff took part in a Level 1 SAPERE P4C training course which has had a huge impact on embedding speaking and listening throughout all aspects of school. Over half the staff are trained at Level 2 and the RE/P4C Lead Teacher is Level 3 and a registered SAPERE trainer. P4C is also used more fundamentally as part of the RE curriculum as a tool for enabling deeper reflection, expression and enquiry. Planning for RE is concept led and recent themes for Year 5/6 have included: morality, global leaders, interdependence, peace and global poverty.

Pupils take part in regular P4C sessions from Reception and by Year 6 have become highly skilled in collaborative, caring, critical and creative thinking (the 4 'Cs' of P4C) and are increasingly reasonable, reflective and articulate learners.

In 2016, Armathwaite gained its Gold School Award for P4C from SAPERE, which is the national organisation for P4C. The assessor said: "Enquiry and reflection comes naturally to all members of the school community and is a golden thread running through all that takes place."

Armathwaite School is an Advocacy School for the National Education Trust (NET) and an Ambassador School for the Global Learning Programme (GLP). The GLP is building a network of like-minded schools committed to equipping their pupils to make a positive contribution to a globalised world. With funding from the GLP, Armathwaite School is currently working towards becoming a Rights Respecting School in conjunction with UNICEF.

## Useful websites

[www.armathwaite.cumbria.sch.uk](http://www.armathwaite.cumbria.sch.uk) Armathwaite School website

[www.janeyates.net](http://www.janeyates.net) Jane is a SAPERE registered trainer for P4C

[www.sapere.org.uk](http://www.sapere.org.uk) Further information about P4C

[www.globaldimension.org.uk/glp](http://www.globaldimension.org.uk/glp) Global Learning Programme (GLP)

[www.nationaleducationtrust.net/AdvocacySchool.php](http://www.nationaleducationtrust.net/AdvocacySchool.php) Advocacy Schools (NET)

[www.unicef.org.uk/rrsa](http://www.unicef.org.uk/rrsa) Rights Respecting Schools Award (RRSA)



Armathwaite  
Community School



## Philosophy for Children: A Community of Enquiry

P4C was founded by Professor Matthew Lipman and has developed over 35 years, and is practised in approximately 60 countries. P4C is a thorough pedagogy with considerable academic pedigree. It has been influenced by educationalists and philosophers such as Vygotsky, Piaget, Dewey as well as the tradition of Socratic dialogue.

A traditional P4C session is a ten step process undertaken over one or two lessons. Once pupils are familiar with the process, the facilitator can creatively vary the format, although, consistently maintaining the elements of pupil-led reflection and enquiry.

1. Thinking skills activity: concept connections
2. Stimulus



www.shutterstock.com

3. Individual reflection
4. Shared reflection
5. Generation of questions
6. Selection of question
7. First words
8. Enquiry
9. Final words
10. Review

*Should your parents care if you are not religious?*  
**Does religion choose you, or do you choose religion?**  
*Should you always/ever share a religion?*  
*Can religion change a person?*  
*Are we the same, but different?*  
*Should you always stick to your religion, no matter what?*  
*Can religion help the world?*  
*Have religions made the world a better place?*  
*Would it be easier or harder to live without religion?*  
*Are some religions harder to follow than others?*  
*Are some religions more important than others?*  
*\*question in bold voted for enquiry*

[www.janeyates.net](http://www.janeyates.net)

Examples of expression through poetry and prose following the stimulus and generation of philosophical questions.

### What if Everyone Is The Same But Different?

I'm me and that's that  
Does it really matter if I wear a hat?

We are all the same,  
But different

We are all the same,  
But different  
Does it really matter where we came from?

Ying and Yang, black and white  
We are as different as day is from night

Christian, Rastafarian  
Islamic, Sabbatharian

We all have different religions;  
All have different beliefs

But we are the same  
And different, in a way

We are all the same,  
But different

We are all the same,  
But different  
And it doesn't matter from where we came!  
*By Liza*

Does it matter what your religion is?  
Should you always argue and not forgive?  
Why not be kind and collaborative?  
Lots of people have lots of different faiths  
Everybody's different in different ways  
But what we believe in can interlace  
We can go together in any place  
People can certainly be critical  
That's just because you are not typical  
So say your faith and don't be mystical  
It may not seem like they are all judging you  
However you'll be able to get through  
So even if things always seem askew  
You can do strikingly more than you knew.  
*By Rosalind*

**A Shakespearean Sonnet (14 lines, 10 syllables each line)**

### I am Me and Me I Will Always Be

I am me  
And me I will  
Always be.

We are all different  
In every way.

We get more unique  
By the day.

A lot of people worship  
Dissimilar beliefs.

And every religion  
Has distinctive motifs.

So show them some respect.  
Then a great effect will re-direct.

Keep telling yourself  
You have the right to  
Have freedom and choice.

Old or young  
We should all  
Have a voice.

I am me  
And me I will  
Always be.  
*By Maisy*

Respect  
Everyone  
Live  
In  
Groups  
Independence  
Only  
Neglects  
*By Barney*



Islamic Pride  
We are proud to be  
Everybody can see  
Islam is my pride.



God spoke to me  
My God spoke to me  
It filled me with lots of glee  
My God spoke to me.  
*By Matthew G*

Follow your beliefs  
Respect other peoples  
Everyone has the freedom of choice  
We need  
Tolerance of other religions.  
Let there be.  
*By Alistair*

There are so many different religions  
Around the world.  
Christians, Buddhists, Hindus,  
Muslims, Jews and Sikhs  
Are just a few  
But there are hundreds more.  
You have the freedom  
To choose your religion.  
*By Matthew H*

### Religions Unite!

Religions unite,  
Stand and fight!  
For together we are different  
But apart we are the same.

But you may be wondering how?  
We'll play this game,  
Here's how: we'll tolerate!  
(There may be a bit of hate).  
Each following different things!

Jews, Muslims,  
Christians, Vegetarians: Unite!  
For we are all the same  
But different.

So religions unite,  
Stand for your religion  
And fight  
(For you and  
Everybody that believes).  
*By Skye*

### Poem... still work in progress

Christians have a God  
But none of them are odd.  
Jews are cool  
Even when they have rules.  
Muslims are amazing  
Even when they are praying.  
Sikhs live honestly  
Even if they're in a colony.  
Even if they worship Buddha,  
They still can eat tuna.  
Hindus have a different belief  
But I hope they have relief.  
*By Jonny*

Religion is a strange thing  
I don't understand it  
Where did it come from and why do people follow it?  
Why is it so popular?  
Who is God and what is Heaven?  
What is Hell and who do you believe in?  
*By Arthur*

### Respect

I live in an ordinary house  
In an ordinary street  
Everything is normal except from me!

Just because of my religion  
I get no respect  
Just because of my religion  
Nobody's fair.

Let's be friends,  
Not enemies,  
Just because we're different  
Don't be offended by me.  
*By Luke B*

If I'm Christian, Hindu, or Muslim  
If I'm Buddhist, Jewish or Sikh.  
I still need respect,  
choice and freedom  
I'll always be different and unique.

Some people think I'm crazy  
I say these words out loud.  
But even if I'm all alone,  
I'll be standing tall and proud.  
*By Rebecca*

### Different

I live on an ordinary street,  
In an ordinary town.  
But something pulls me out of the crowd.  
I don't look like them!  
I don't sound like them  
Because I'm  
RELIGIOUS!

But I still need respect.  
The choice to decide what I want to do,  
We're not all the same,  
We're different, unique.

I want to have freedom,  
So turn up the volume, speak up!  
You are the best you can be  
And that's good enough for me.  
*By Caitlin*

### Different But the Same

The heart full of freedom has a space for you,  
If you've ever seen them join the crew.

Why not show your big smiley grin  
By saying what you believe in.

Whether you're a royal king or as small as a pin  
Speak your religion  
Don't keep it hidden.

Because I'm here for you no matter what  
Whether you're part of the crew or you're not.  
*By Kasey*