



# Primary Ethics classes

## Helping children develop skills for life

Primary Ethics' program gives children the opportunity to discuss ethical issues with their peers while developing important thinking, reasoning and discussion skills. Our innovative curriculum was developed by Dr Sue Knight, a specialist in both philosophy and education. Primary Ethics is a not-for-profit organisation approved to provide ethics education in NSW public schools.



### Ethics in the infant years

Ethics classes in years k–2 focus on developing core skills such as listening to others, taking turns to speak and giving reasons.

Stories, poems and rhymes prompt children to discuss ethical issues such as hurting someone without meaning to, telling the truth, being kind, forgiving, ownership, fairness and empathy.

Our skills-based topics for this age group include asking and answering questions, disagreeing, changing your mind, working out what is true, giving and evaluating reasons as well as giving examples and counter examples. Logic is also introduced, with topics touching on inductive inference and deductive reasoning.

### Ethics in the primary years

In years 3–6, ethics students develop their critical thinking and discussion-based skills.

Stories, contemporary issues and real life scenarios form the basis of discussions on ethical issues such as selfishness, how we should treat living things, promises, greed, friendship, cheating, voting, punishment, homelessness, teasing and fairness in society.

Skills-based topics for this age group include respectful disagreement, inferring or figuring things out, validity, generalising, proving claims, structuring arguments, identifying incorrect conclusions, identifying faulty reasoning, evaluating the strength of evidence and thinking about thinking. Primary aged students are encouraged to develop their community of inquiry skills by asking each other well thought out questions and challenging each other's arguments.

### Enrolling your child

Ethics classes run weekly during the school year within the Special Religious Education/Special Education in Ethics (SRE/SEE) timeslot.

Primary Ethics classes are free of charge.

If you'd like your child to attend ethics classes, advise the school office via a note or email. Your child can start as soon as an ethics teacher is available and a minimum of eight students have enrolled in a class.

### Getting involved

Ethics classes are taught by specially trained volunteers who are mostly parents or carers. Becoming an ethics coordinator or ethics teacher can be a very rewarding way to be involved in your school community. Volunteer ethics teachers are always needed to ensure that there are adequate classes to meet demand. Experience is not required, comprehensive training and access to lesson materials is provided.

Questions? Call 02 8068 7752 or email [info@primaryethics.com.au](mailto:info@primaryethics.com.au)



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