



Primary Ethics Classes

Since early 2011, NSW public school children have had a legal right to attend classes in philosophical ethics at their school if:

- their parents give permission for them to go to ethics classes and
- Primary Ethics can provide trained and vetted volunteers to organise and teach the classes.

Classes are available to all children from Kindergarten to Year 6 who don't attend the available Scripture/SRE (Special Religious Education) classes in their school. However, Primary Ethics can only provide these classes if it has trained volunteers from either the school community or the wider community.

What are ethics classes?

Ethics is a branch of philosophy that examines ethical concepts and issues, asking what is right or wrong in particular circumstances. Our curriculum comprises a wide range of age-appropriate topics that primary-aged children find interesting. Students learn to think about these ethical matters together and engage in the give-and-take of reasoned argument. This process allows students to properly consider other people's points of view and to be sincere, reasonable and respectful in dealing with their differences and disagreements.

Our K-6 curriculum has 78 topics, starting with *Questions and Puzzlement*, introducing children to the foundation of ethical thinking. Children in the younger primary years examine issues such as being left out, sharing and bullying, while older children reflect on issues such as homelessness, fairness and teasing to help them consider the feelings and interests of others – one important aspect of moral reasoning. Other aspects include understanding consequences, having empathy and appreciating difference.

Research shows that well-reasoned moral judgement does not develop automatically as young people mature and that these skills are best developed using the methods we employ in ethics classes. Once acquired, these skills accompany individuals into adulthood.



Starting ethics classes at your school

If there are no ethics classes currently available at your child's school, you should:

- let your principal know that you would like ethics classes for your child,
- go to the Primary Ethics website www.primaryethics.com.au to find out more about our curriculum, information for parents and volunteering, and
- email Primary Ethics at info@primaryethics.com.au to let us know the name of your child's school and the year he/she is in.

We will contact you and/or your principal to get things started at your school.

No classes for your child's year?

If there are ethics classes at your school but none for your child's year, please contact your principal and the Primary Ethics Coordinator to let them know you would like ethics classes for your child. We will need to find a volunteer to start a class, so volunteer yourself or ask your friends/family if they are interested. See

www.primaryethics.com.au/ethicsteacher.html

