



Philosophy Implementation and Impact Statement

‘Be a free thinker and don't accept everything you hear as truth. Be critical and evaluate what you believe in.’ – Aristotle

Intent:

At Woolenwick our intent is to allow children the space to ponder, reflect, discuss and formulate ideas in the philosophical realm. Our intent is for our pupils to practice and consolidate the skills of discussion and debate in order to be able to push forward conversations and further develop thoughts and concepts. Children should also engage with their own minds, forging their own understanding of the world around them, why they are here and their purpose, why things are the way they are and what are the reasons behind events, behaviours and the world at large.

Implementation:

To implement our curriculum we, as a school, will spend a proportion of time allocated for philosophy (20-40 mins a week, approx. 8 hours per term) this does not include extra sessions that might be pertinent to school projects or a reaction to an external event or stimulus. During this time children will take part in a circle time and have a question or topic of discussion. Children will take turns to add to the discussion whilst considering the responses of others. Adults will scribe in the class philosophy book so children can concentrate on their thoughts. They may also record ideas or responses individually on post-it notes or in books, as small groups on sugar paper or in pairs with a more focused outcome.

Impact:

Through our teaching, questioning and discovery, our children will develop the skills required to engage with others in dialogue, to develop schemas and consider their thoughts and opinions to help them contend with an ever-changing world and to co-operate in society with respect and compassion. They will know that they don't have, and can never have, all the answers, and they also understand that there are no right answers, but that they are on the right path by merely posing and pondering the questions and answers. This will also prepare them for the unknown by introducing them to the concept of discovery and being at peace with the uncertainties of the universe.