

Thinking and writing

How they can support each other

A course for key stages 2 and 3 using Philosophy for Children

Headlines

Stimulate pupils to write. Move them beyond the use of writing frames towards clear, self-sustained thinking and written expression. Attendees will take away a host of practical ideas.

The course

This day-long course will show how using Philosophy for Children (P4C) can enhance pupils' writing and how writing can assist pupils' thinking. P4C is an increasingly popular initiative that stimulates, through a 'community of enquiry', the curiosity and wonder of children and young people. It engages them in conversations that are rich in philosophical problems and concepts. The course will show how the community of enquiry presents many opportunities for developing pupils' **non-fiction writing**. It will be a practical course with activities and ideas on the following topics:

1. Helping pupils to use forms of writing to organise, remember and discover their own thoughts. These are: **questions** (considered as an important genre of writing), **lists, jottings, diagrams, outlines** and all kinds of **visual tools for thinking** (all of which involve writing).
2. Using **exploratory writing** to enrich or follow on from classroom discussions. There will be particular emphasis on **short pieces of writing** to help children understand and express **crucial connections** and logical relationships such as 'same/different', 'cause/consequence', 'category', 'example', 'important', 'claim/reason' and so on. Exploratory writing that uses these kinds of connections, followed by discussion, will help children to develop more coherence in their **nonfiction writing** and write meaningfully with **elegance and with more variety of expression**.
3. Encouraging adults to write for children and children to write for each other about philosophical issues that matter to them. Such writing can be long or short but it is always worth reading. The course will present ideas for **stimulating and sharing** philosophical writing without making the process seem like a chore.

Who might attend?

Literacy co-ordinators and consultants, Philosophy for Children teachers and trainers. No experience of Philosophy for Children is necessary but attendees will be signposted to for further reading and courses if they wish.

The tutor: Steve Williams is a professional book and magazine editor who is also one of the UK's most experienced exponents of Philosophy for Children. He was an English teacher and is a respected writer on thinking skills and independent learning.

The venue: The New Clubhouse, Brayfield Sports Ground, Cricket Lane, Between 25 & 27 Brayfield Road, Littleover, Derby. This is a very relaxing venue, recently refurbished to a high standard. **Food:** Sandwiches and a 'finger buffet' will be provided.

Date: 3 July 2008 **Time:** 9.30 am (for a 10 am start) to 3.30 pm. **Course fee:** £100

Enquiries and booking: Please use the booking form.