

# Primary Ethics Classes

## At Clemton Park Public School



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 76 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.

### Volunteers needed

We hope to start ethics classes at Clemton Park for the first time in 2016.

Nicole Jackson has recently been appointed as Ethics Coordinator for Clemton Park. Nicole may be contacted on 0415 741 201 or [nicole.jackson@lwb.org.au](mailto:nicole.jackson@lwb.org.au).

We need more volunteers to be trained as ethics teachers.

Teaching ethics classes is very rewarding, and can be a great opportunity to volunteer at our school. Ethics teachers can be parents, grandparents or friends.

For information about Primary Ethics, our curriculum, and how you can become involved as a teacher, please visit [www.primaryethics.com.au](http://www.primaryethics.com.au) or contact Nicole.

If you are interested in your child attending ethics classes next year, please contact the school office.



**Primary**  
ETHICS