Using Philosophy for/with children to promote global learning

P4C is a powerful tool for enabling children and young people to explore challenging subject matter around the key concepts of global learning, such as poverty, inequality, globalization, conflict, power and environment. Philosophical enquiry not only helps children decide for themselves what to do in the here and now, but will also develop critical and creative thinking skills they will need in the future in this rapidly changing an uncertain world.

Quality or Quantity? Measuring teachers’ impact on pupil attitudes and actions

The Centre for Global Awareness (CGA) is taking part in this EU funded project, led by Reading International Solidarity Centre (RISC), now in its second year.

We have been working with teachers, student teachers and their tutors to develop ways of finding out how pupils’ attitudes and actions can change, building on and enhancing RISC’s unique toolkit for measuring attitudinal change, ‘How Do We Know It’s Working?’

Using practical activities, teachers can assess pupils’ knowledge and attitudes about key global learning concepts such as human rights, sustainability, diversity, sustainability and social justice.

CGA has been trialling activities to measure the effectiveness of P4C to develop pupils’ empathy. Rather than measure empathy itself, we are looking for the impact of empathy, where the response is altruistic (taking action to help others) rather than egoistic (protecting self from harm and distress). In particular, we are looking for impacts that enable pupils to:

- develop their moral imagination, where understanding has been extended beyond immediate experience and there is a greater ability to understand how others feel. This will mean that children will be more able to ‘put themselves in the shoes’ of someone whose life is very different

- see all people as equal

- develop a deeper sense of, and commitment to, justice

- take action, by taking making individual choices have positive impacts on the lives of others, and by campaigning for justice.

- understand another’s point of view

- become better critical thinkers and will therefore
  - challenge preconceptions and assumptions
  - be able to form their own reasoned opinions
  - make choices based on evaluation of the available information
  - be prepared to change their opinion in the light of new evidence

To find out more contact Flick flick@globalawareness.org.uk