

What we talk about in ethics classes

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PrimaryEthics@Home for Parents and Carers | May 2019

Welcome to the second edition of PrimaryEthics@Home for 2019. Find out what topics your children are covering in ethics class and click through for background reading and activities designed to continue the ethical discussions at home.

Not every class will be at exactly the same point in time. You can view all previous 2019 topics on our [info hub for parents and carers](#).

Any feedback on your child's experience, or on PrimaryEthics@Home, is warmly welcomed. Please email communications@primaryethics.com.au.

Current topics for term 2 2019

Kindergarten

Topic 3: Doing harm without meaning to



Max *knows* he's not supposed to throw the ball to his dog Watson inside the house.

But today it's raining, and Watson really wants to play. All day long he's been coming up to Max with his ball. So Max tries to play really quietly so that his mum doesn't hear. Watson is having a great time until...CRASH!

In this topic, we look at the difference between doing things 'on purpose' and doing things 'by accident'. [Read more](#)

Stage 1 (years 1 & 2)

Topic 3: When is it fair?

An adaptation of the story of the Little Red Hen is used in this topic to help children consider how the bread ought to be split between the animals.

Should Hen get more because she did the most work? Should Pig get any if he didn't help at all? Should Cat get more than Mouse because she's bigger? [Read more.](#)



Stage 2 (years 3 & 4)

Topic 3: Persuading – or getting someone to do something

In this topic we work with children's 'feel for illogic', as Mathew Lipman puts it – in much the same way that teachers work with children's 'feel' for grammatical errors. Children say 'that doesn't sound right' before they are able to identify the grammatical fault, and the same is true with logic. Here, we are aiming to help children begin to recognise some logical faults in the context of real life examples. [Read more](#)

Stage 3 (years 5 & 6)

Topic 3: Being vain

In Grimm's fairytale 'Snow White', the Queen is the epitome of vanity. She is so pre-occupied with her own physical beauty that her happiness entirely depends on it. In this topic students consider notions of appearance and vanity, and what, if anything, is wrong with being vain. [Read more](#)

Useful questions to help continue the discussion at home

The Primary Ethics approach encourages children to be curious and make their own discoveries, so asking your child a question like 'what did they teach you in ethics class today' might draw a blank! Here are a few other questions that might help get the conversation started:

- What different ideas did you hear in ethics class today?
- Did anyone say something that made you change your mind?
- What were some of the reasons that came up?
- Who were the characters in the story you heard today?

Nominate a Primary Ethics volunteer

Help us to recognise our volunteers for their time and commitment - why not nominate your child's ethics teacher for a Certificate of Recognition from the NSW Centre for Volunteering? [Click through to our simple form](#). Thank you!

Ethics classes in the media

[Ethics shaping young minds](#) (Lakes Mail)

[Ethics program offers an alternative for students](#) (Port Macquarie News)

[Ethics teachers in high demand](#) (Daily Telegraph)

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