



## Ethics classes for high school students

### About high school ethics classes

Our new Year 7 and 8 ethics curriculum provides all families with a high-quality option in the Special Religious Education (SRE) timeslot in high schools. All students are welcome in high school ethics classes, whether they have participated in ethics in primary school or not.

In ethics lessons, students work collaboratively, actively listening to one another and engaging in respectful discussions. Contemporary issues, case studies and scenarios form the basis of thinking and discussions on ethical issues. Students engage with questions such as: *Pets, pests and farm animals – should we treat them differently from each other and why?* And *Are people's true characters revealed in the choices they make under pressure?*

An ethics program for Year 7 and 8 students explores ethical dilemmas that can loom large in the adolescent years by:

- supporting students to develop skills in critical thinking, respectful discussion and ethical reasoning, skills which are transferable to the key learning areas of the curriculum
- assisting with development of interpersonal and decision-making skills,
- supporting students in making the significant transition from primary to high school

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### About the high school ethics curriculum

Our curriculum is written by experts and is based on the traditions of philosophical inquiry combined with the findings of cognitive psychology and pedagogical research. We use a community of inquiry learning model supported by teacher-led questioning. This student-centred approach to learning supports students to be curious and discover concepts for themselves, by collaborating with their peers in a safe environment. Classes are facilitated by volunteer ethics teachers who are trained and supported by Primary Ethics.

The curriculum is reviewed by the NSW Department of Education for age appropriateness. The topics invite students to examine what we ought to do, how we ought to live, the kind of society we should have and what kind of person each of us should strive to be.

The ethical dilemmas presented in the lessons are designed to be challenging, providing students with the opportunity to practise and then apply their collaborative inquiry and critical thinking skills. The overall aim of ethics lessons is for students to develop both the capability and the willingness to discuss ethical issues with those around them in a well-reasoned and respectful way.

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**Do you have questions? Visit [primaryethics.com.au/high-schools](http://primaryethics.com.au/high-schools)**

**or contact us on 02 8068 7752 or [helpdesk@primaryethics.com.au](mailto:helpdesk@primaryethics.com.au) to find out more.**

High school ethics classes are provided by Primary Ethics, an independent, not-for-profit organisation and the single approved provider of Special Education in Ethics (SEE) to NSW Department of Education schools. We recruit, train and support volunteers to deliver ethics lessons using a facilitated community of inquiry leaning model. Our high school volunteers are parents, family and members of the broader school community. We are always interested in receiving applications from additional new volunteers. If you are interested in volunteering, please visit [primaryethics.com.au/volunteering](http://primaryethics.com.au/volunteering) for more information.