

After-school Philosophy classes at The Glasgow Academy: for Primary 2 - P7

Dear Parent,

Following the successful introduction during the last academic year, I am writing to let you know that we are continuing to offer Philosophy for all classes from P2 – P7 this academic year (2009 – 2010).

The Philosophy Class gives children the opportunity to have fun thinking about the classic questions and issues in philosophy, and to develop their own critical and creative thinking abilities.

The Philosophy Class benefits both academically able children who find their thinking challenged and stretched, and also those less confident children who develop both skills and confidence that transfers into other school subjects and at home (See parent responses attached).

The class will be of interest to children who enjoy thinking about questions such as:

- How do we judge what is right and wrong?
- Does everyone see the same colour?
- How do we know what is real?

Children enjoy the opportunity to talk about philosophical issues with other children and to hear what others think - under the guidance of a Philosopher.

The Philosophy class will meet in The Glasgow Academy once per week in term-time;

Group 1	Thursdays	3.15 p.m. – 3.45 p.m.	in The Prep School Hall
Group 2	Thursdays	12.30 p.m. – 1.00p.m.	in the Prep Performance Room
Group 3	Thursdays	3.55 p.m. – 4.45 p.m.	in The Prep School Hall

Note: for each group to run, we need a minimum of 7 registered children in the group and a maximum of registered 14 children.

Registration is for each whole term. Tuition Fees are £15 per week, to be paid directly to EPIC (Dr McCall). If you are interested in your son/daughter attending a Philosophy Class, please complete the slip below and email it to [c.mccall@strath.ac.uk](mailto:c.mccall@strath.ac.uk)

Yours sincerely,

Catherine C McCall BA (Hons) MA MSc PhD FRSA

**After-school Philosophy classes at The Glasgow Academy**

**Name**

**Address**

**Phone number**

**e-mail**

I would like my son/daughter .....class.....  
to attend the after-school Philosophy class during the 2009 –2010 school year  
and agree to paying EPIC (Dr. McCall) the appropriate fee.

Signed .....

Date .....

### **Unsolicited comments from parents' e-mails (anonymous)**

1. "... was hugely motivated and engaged by them [Philosophy lessons] . It was the only part of the school week that he volunteered information on what he was doing and, critically, challenged us to keep up with the discussion! He patently enjoyed the sessions and was sad that they were stopping. ... was suggesting that he and ... could make posters and put them up around the school to encourage other children to sign up!"
2. "... thoroughly enjoyed studying philosophy, and I'm hopeful she'll resume her studies next term."
3. "... enjoyed Philosophy classes immensely and wishes to return for the summer term."
4. "... much enjoys the classes, which clearly are very helpful."
5. "... would love to continue philosophy classes both this term and next year in ... if the time and day is suitable. Many thanks for making the classes so enjoyable."
6. "... The kids really enjoyed the classes..."
7. "...was quite tired when he got home and we didn't hear a great deal about the class but it was obvious that he had had to think. Excellent!"

### **Parent's Feedback (direct)**

8. "Dear Dr McCall,  
... regarding feedback: in addition to enjoying the classes through finding them stimulating, a particular effect that I have noticed is the development of an interest in thought and reasoning processes. This is an important aspect of a broad education and is of clear value. As regards discussing the subjects of the classes, this is something we do regularly; it is another important aspect of the project and of embedding the benefits of the classes.

Yours sincerely  
Dr George Biddlecombe"