

Philosophy for Children (P4C)

An introduction

What is P4C?

- P4C is a structured approach to teaching and learning
- P4C generates better thinkers, better understanding and better relationships
- **Children learn better because:**
 - They choose the subject matter, and their voices are heard and valued
 - In justifying their opinions and listening to others, their vocabulary expands
 - They learn how to disagree respectfully, which increases their resilience
 - They think and reflect more deeply, so their understanding improves
- **Teachers teach better because:**
 - Children are more engaged in their learning
 - They learn how to facilitate meaningful discussion
 - They develop new teaching strategies

“P4C aims to help children become more thoughtful, more reflective, considerate and reasonable individuals.”

Matthew Lipman

Why use P4C?

- Develop speaking and listening
- Taking turns
- Articulating opinions
- Justifying a line of thinking
- Respecting the opinions of others
- Following a line of argument
- Having ownership of a discussion

“Opportunities to develop pupils’ resilience and well-being are built into the curriculum. For example, through philosophy lessons, pupils share their feelings and concerns.”

Ofsted report, 2019

Research evidence:

EEF outcomes: impact on most disadvantaged
raises attainment in maths and reading
improves children’s confidence to speak, listening skills and self-esteem

What happens in P4C?

- The ingredients:
 - A stimulus
 - Questioning
 - Dialogue
 - Reflection
- A stimulus is selected by the teacher and used to prompt an initial discussion. This could be a song, a photo, a book.
- Themes will emerge and the children discuss in small groups what theme they would like the class to consider in greater depth.
- The class votes for the question they would like to explore.
- The discussion ensue, with an emphasis on listening respectfully and justifying a line of argument
- Children can agree or disagree but must justify why.



Next steps

Going for Gold programme

Three-year programme

Train all staff – foundation Level 1

Develop expertise with additional training

- Tools for Thinking Together

- Specialists across the school who attend in-depth training – Level 2

- In-school support across all three years

Apply for recognition from SAPERE by achieving Bronze, Silver, Gold awards

Awards are based on:

- Holding an enquiry regularly

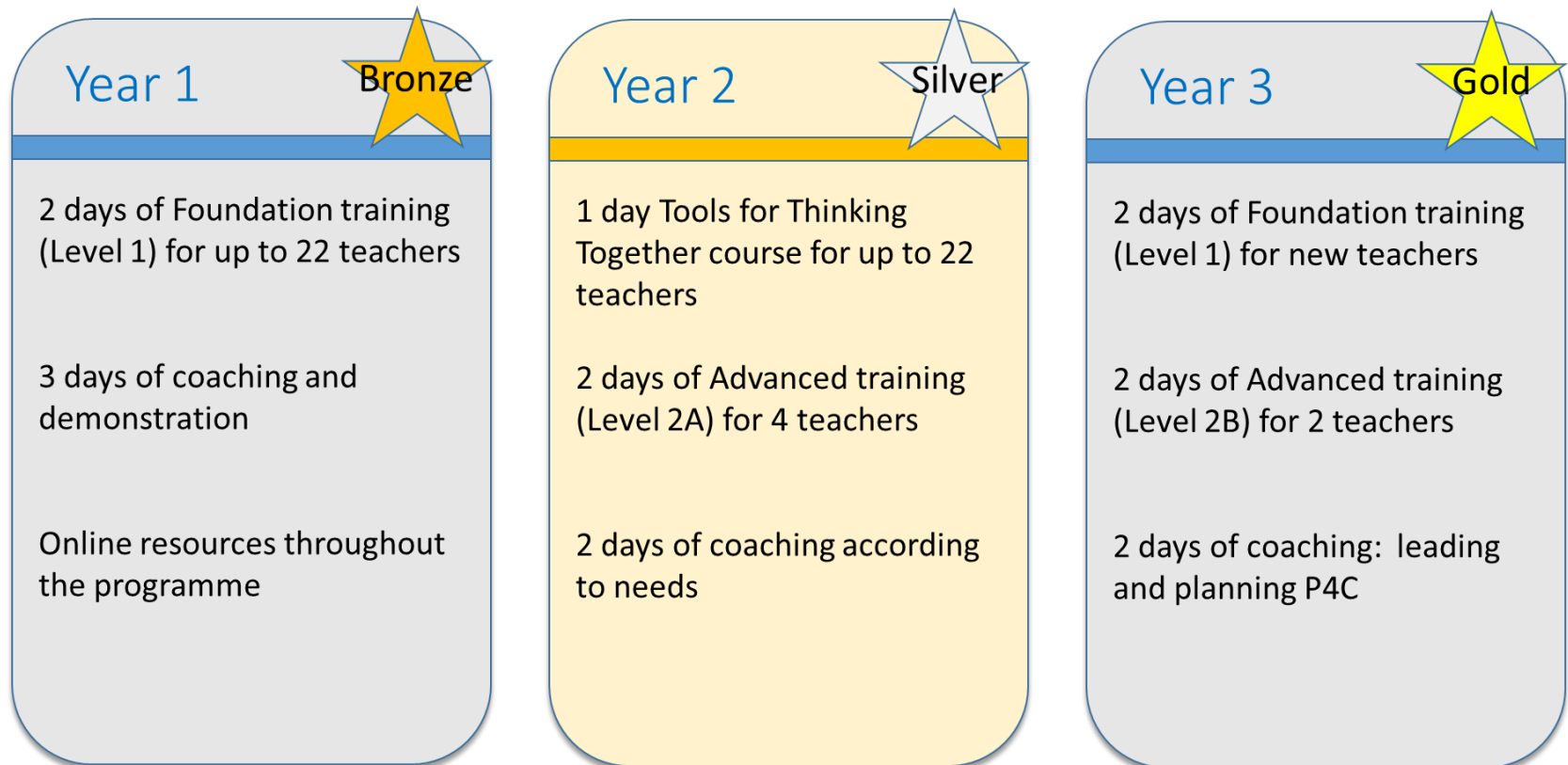
- Applying P4C across the curriculum

- Achieving impact on staff's capacity to facilitate enquiries

- Achieving impact on pupils' capacity to discuss issues using the 4Cs

Next steps

Going for Gold programme



Next steps

Going for Gold programme

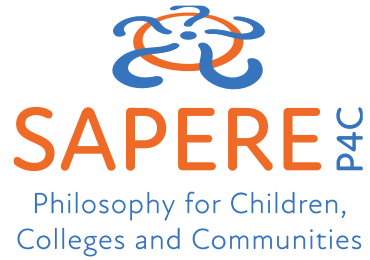
Confirm commitment to Going for Gold

Book dates for first training

Agree the data to be used to track impact

Agree the staff who will lead P4C

Agree on the link governor for P4C



Any questions?