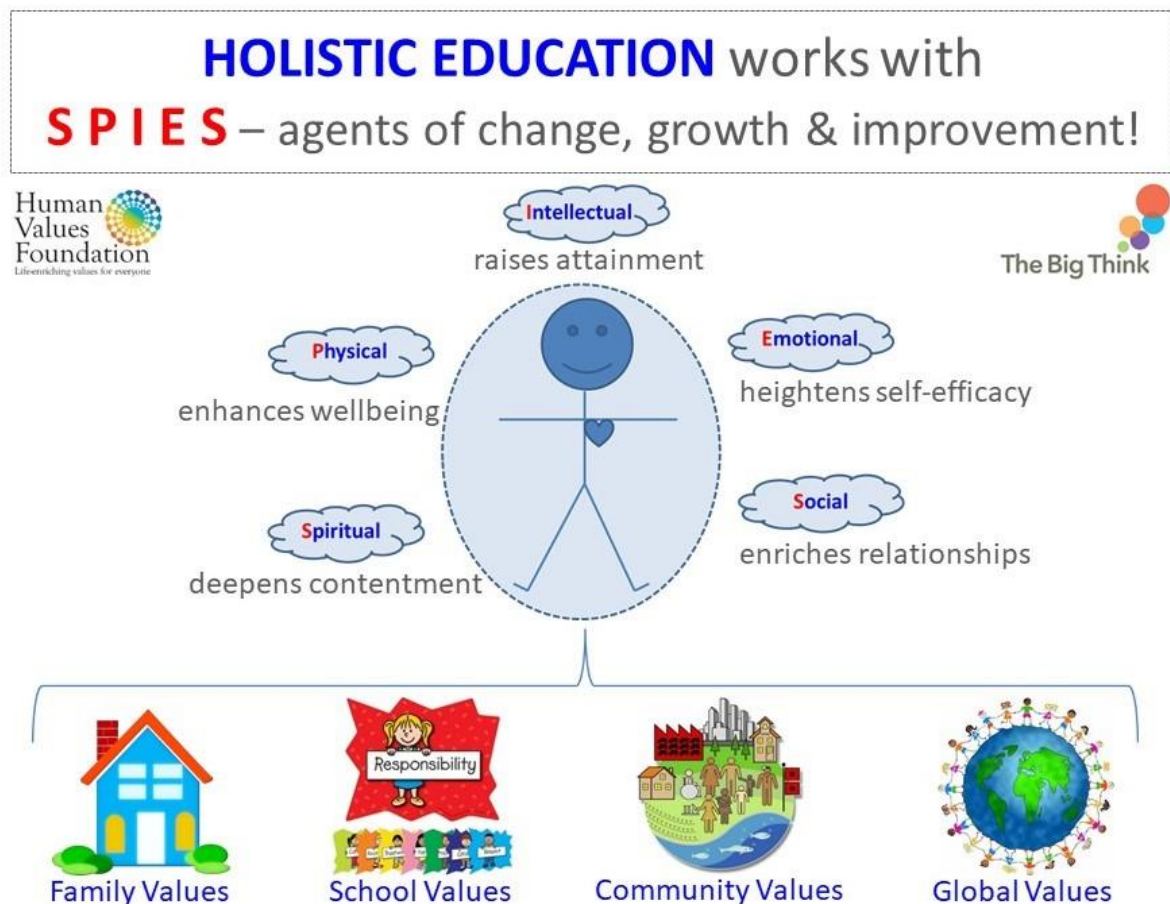


HOLISTIC EDUCATION – The Better Way Forward



Even prior to the pandemic crisis, searching questions were being asked about how to improve the quality and relevance of education. There is a growing recognition of the need for a more holistic approach to better balance academia with social and emotional learning.

The Big Think (TBT) is an innovative, values-themed Personal Development programme comprising 120 fully-resourced lesson kits: 60 for ages 5 to 7 and 60 for ages 7 to 11. These well-structured learning modules allow teachers, whether they have years of experience or are newly qualified, to facilitate academic, social and emotional learning in ways that accommodate and are responsive to the diverse, individual and collective, holistic educational needs of their pupils.

The supportive, whole-school approach applies methods and content that form a pattern that children can relate to, understand and enjoy. The learning kits are grouped under 5 core values of Peace, Community, Responsibility, Truth and Love. Each session provides purposeful opportunities that enable participants to grow and maximise their potential from the outset of their education journeys.



As the programme is implemented and prioritises everyone's wellbeing, here are ten of the many systemic differences it makes while it nurtures key competencies so the children can shape their lives in happy, productive, fulfilling ways.

- 1) TBT establishes an **emotionally safe and caring learning environment** in which each child feels valued and supported
- 2) TBT develops sympathetically, all aspects of the children's **mental, physical, spiritual, moral, social and cultural capacities** so that they are happy, can flourish and achieve
- 3) TBT inspires the children to **work to the best of their ability** so that they grow into mature, values-led, resilient, active citizens
- 4) TBT promotes the formation and maintenance of **fruitful relationships**, including mutual respect between staff and children
- 5) TBT deepens knowledge of **self-worth and self confidence** in each child
- 6) TBT fosters respect for the **needs and abilities of others** and for the environment
- 7) TBT nurtures and encourages individuals to explore their **talents and interests**
- 8) TBT constantly creates opportunities for **cooperation and working with others** in groups in school and in their wider communities
- 9) TBT integrates activities in order to facilitate a habit of **social inclusion** whatever context the children are in during their day-to-day lives
- 10) TBT encourages good **communication skills** so that the children can connect well and grow in confidence and self-reliance

What is unique about The Big Think is its transformative development of **values literacy**. The process empowers children with well-considered, life-enriching values on which they can draw to guide their thinking, decision-making and actions and so maintain **high-quality performance** in all the dimensions of their lives.