



NEWSLETTER 53 - AUTUMN 2022

Values Literacy – a key to flourishing in the modern world

On 20th October the 7th global celebration of [World Values Day](#) took place. This year's theme was 'Values for Community'. The Human Values Foundation (HVF) was honoured once again to be a Partner for this annual campaign to increase the awareness and practice of values.



If we stop for a few moments and consider what matters most to us, we realise we are motivated and guided by what we treasure and that our values are the passion in our hearts, the reason we do the things we do.

In our constantly changing, seemingly increasingly divided world, values can help to unite us. They are the glue holding together our communities and wider society.

So, this year's focus provided a great opportunity to showcase the work of individuals and all types and sizes of organisations in putting values into action, reaching across the growing barriers that divide us to build stronger communities and a more united world.

Since 1995 the HVF has been a pioneer in advancing 'values literacy', a pathway to strengthening school communities and an empowering feature of purposeful education for young citizens. Our programmes and training provide a starting point and route maps for school leaders and teachers to appreciate the influences of values and how to embed high quality values education. The dialogic, experiential learning resources that we provide enable all participants, be they school staff, children, parents or carers, to gain an understanding of a wide spectrum of values and the capacity to choose and apply appropriate ones within different contexts in real-life situations to achieve desired goals.

Our values-themed programme, [THE BIG THINK](#) (TBT) for ages 5 to 11, enables children to understand the diverse world around them and supports them in learning to play positive roles in contributing to their families, schools and wider communities. Aligned with the statutory Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural (SMSC) curriculum and expectations for Personal, Social, Health and Economic (PSHE) education, this programme not only develops knowledge, life skills and attributes conducive to raising attainment levels but it also nurtures healthy and safe lifestyles, talents and interests so the individuals can flourish, maximise their potential and be well prepared for life in the modern world and their chosen trajectories on completing their formal education.

Social and Emotional Learning (SEL)

Social and emotional learning is now seen as a vital aspect of education. The process is a strong feature of TBT, enabling children to acquire and apply knowledge, skills and attitudes to develop healthy identities, manage emotions and achieve personal and collective goals. Research shows that effective SEL can positively impact pupil behaviour, mental health and wellbeing, as well as academic attainment.



These five SEL strategies are recommended to improve performance in Primary schools:

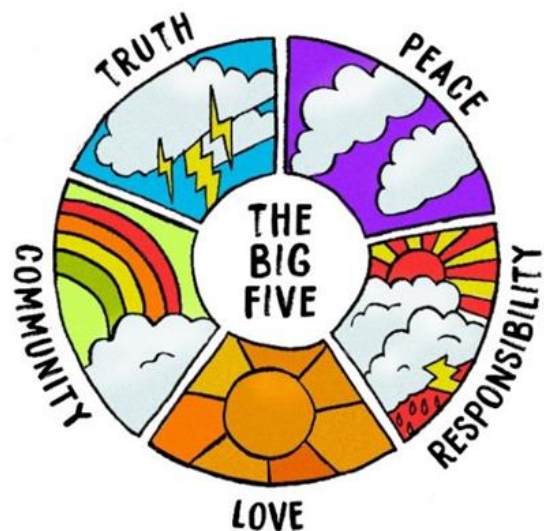
- ❖ **SELF-AWARENESS**: Expand children's emotional vocabulary and support them to express emotions.
- ❖ **SELF MANAGEMENT**: Teach children to use self-calming strategies and positive self-talk to help deal with intense emotions.
- ❖ **RESPONSIBLE DECISION-MAKING**: Teach and practise problem-solving strategies.
- ❖ **RELATIONSHIP SKILLS**: Roleplay good communication and listening skills.
- ❖ **SOCIAL AWARENESS**: Use stories to discuss others' emotions and perspectives.

THE BIG FIVE project – 'Inside weather' and the school climate

The coronavirus pandemic has had detrimental effects on many children's wellbeing. Teachers are hard pressed, with staff sickness levels still quite persistent and a huge backlog of academic and non-academic work to be tackled. Their anxieties have been compounded by a paucity of teacher training opportunities to enable them to effectively support young citizens' heightened social and emotional needs.

As ever, the HVF Team is solutions focused. These concerns led us on into supplying a freely available, mini-programme that we have called [THE BIG FIVE](#). We launched it with a workshop on World Values Day. This resource is a taster for The Big Think and reflects the significance of what Dr Haim Ginott, a schoolteacher, child psychologist, psychotherapist and parent educator had to say about the importance of teachers as role models:

"I've come to a frightening conclusion that I am the decisive element in the classroom. It's my personal approach that creates the climate. It's my daily mood that makes the weather."

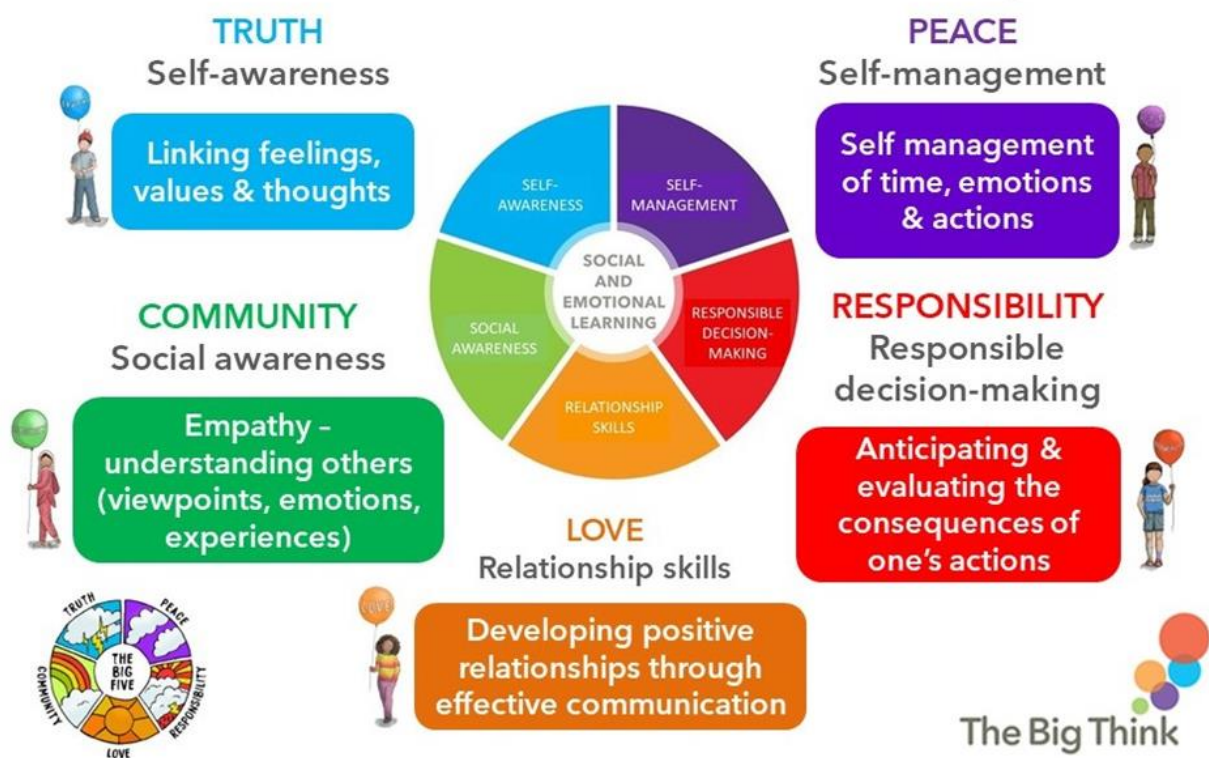


THE BIG FIVE is a 5-week Social and Emotional Learning project for Primary schools. Using five Assembly and Lesson kits from The Big Think programme, one for each of the core values of TRUTH, PEACE, LOVE, RESPONSIBILITY and COMMUNITY, it provides a practical approach that enables teachers to feel more secure as they nurture children's 'soft skills'.

We will be running complimentary online workshops using The Big Five to advance teachers' skillsets so they can lead a collaborative approach to ensuring a stable school climate, using the five core values, and confidently facilitate sessions with a focus on key SEL competencies.

The sequence of carefully structured kits creates a journey that enables both staff and children to better understand themselves, their 'inside weather patterns' and how to manage their changeable emotions. The children will explore techniques for interacting well with others and learn to be accountable for their actions. The cumulative learning can then be applied to constructive activities that help to make the world – the outer climate – better for all living beings.

THE BIG FIVE Social & Emotional Learning skills



“The Big Think is the best subject ever”

This is the view of a child in a federation of four schools that are using The Big Think programme.

In July we had a stand at the inaugural conference for new headteachers: *The First 100 days*. Two of the keynote speakers are great ambassadors for The Big Think.

Christalla Jamil is the CEO of the London Diocesan Board for Schools Academies Trust. She is also the Executive Head of two schools that are much enjoying The Big Think.

*“Investing in **The Big Think** has not only enabled staff to plan and sequence their PSHE/RSE lessons in advance, it has also woven a golden thread of mindfulness across all subjects taught.*

*I highly recommend **The Big Think** not only for the exemplary resources available, but for the partnership that is formed with the providers that impacts so positively on all our learners.”*



Rae Snape, a highly influential headteacher and national leader of education, is the author of *The Headteacher’s Handbook: The essential guide to leading a Primary School*. At the time of the conference, she was very excited about the prospect of Milton Road Primary School in Cambridge joining The Big Think community in September 2022.

*“**The Big Think** is a fabulous, comprehensive resource that will not only support our teaching of Relationships Education and our PSHE curriculum, but will also promote deeper thinking, increase oracy and pupils’ personal development.*

We see this as a holistic programme that will beautifully compliment what we are already doing and will strengthen pro-social skills, coexistence and cohesion. It is just what we have been looking for!”



HVF Annual General Meeting on Sunday 20th November

Our Annual General Meeting (AGM) will be on 20th November at 11am. It will be conducted online on Zoom. If you are a Member and would like to attend the AGM, please let Rosemary Dewan know at yes2values@hvf.org.uk and we will send you a Zoom link nearer the time.

As is our usual practice, we are inviting Members, Friends, supporters and other interested parties to attend a **post-AGM session** on Zoom from 11.30am to 1.00pm. There will be a presentation from Sarah Pengelly about our new toolkit **THE BIG FIVE**. We will also be discussing our current and future strategy and in particular, how we can most effectively promote The Big Think to more schools across the country (and in due course overseas). We would very much welcome your contributions to this forum.

If you are interested in attending the post-AGM Zoom session, please contact Rosemary Dewan at yes2values@hvf.org.uk and you will be sent a Zoom link for the session closer to the day.

Supporting the HVF

The HVF thrives because of a committed team and wonderfully generous supporters. With a relentless determination to provide the very best start to children’s education, our programmes and training encourage placing young citizens at the centre of everything a school does. Our latest toolkit, **THE BIG FIVE**, reinforces the focus on creating a positive climate for learning and the conscious efforts of everyone to master competencies leading to a sustainable journey of success.

Our heartfelt thanks to all who have generously made donations since our last newsletter, including the trustees of The Tony Metherell Charitable Trust for their regular donation, the trustees of The 29th May 1961 Charitable Trust, The Catherine Cookson Charitable Trust and The Foyle Foundation and to all who nominated and voted for us resulting in a Movement for Good award of £1,000. Your gifts enable us to ensure children can benefit from the special dimension we add to what they are being taught, particularly in regions of the UK that you would like us to work in. It is clear that many children are struggling with the challenges and stresses of life so we are enormously grateful to you for making it possible to extend the reach of our endeavours to bring about a range of positive impacts, including improvements in the wellbeing of young citizens, their teachers, parents and carers, higher attainment levels and in the longer term, better prospects for thousands of well-rounded children.

We much appreciate the annual subscriptions from our Members and Friends. To you and all the kind-hearted donors who wish to remain anonymous, please accept our most sincere thanks. We also treasure the funding that we have received from the following: Roger Arthur, Alyson Carter, Joy Carter, Ruth and Mike David, Jan di Santi, Bryan and Winkie Harrison, Asha Lad, Rosemary Lipscomb, Tim Lipscomb, Mark Maclay, Robin and Lily Mandal, Anthony and Nicole O'Flaherty, Frances Pusinelli, Mike Roberts, Penelope Sapiro, Geoffrey and Ann Steinberg, Polly Stone and Barbara Ward – *and all who shop online using smile.amazon.co.uk and have nominated the Human Values Foundation as the recipient of donations from Amazon.*

AND FINALLY ...

Please continue to give us your comments, suggestions and ideas about how we might win sponsorship for our various ongoing projects and let us know if you would like to have some e-materials about The Big Think programme to share with your family members, friends, colleagues, potential subscribing Friends of our charity and others. Do contact:

Rosemary Dewan, Human Values Foundation,
The Coach House, Salisbury Road, Horsham, West Sussex RH13 0AJ

Alternatively ring 01403 259711 or e-mail: yes2values@hvf.org.uk.

The charity's website is: www.humanvaluesfoundation.com.

The Big Think's website is: www.the-big-think.org.

The HVF team wishes our readers a happy, healthy winter.

Patrons: Sir Michael Morpurgo, OBE, FRSL, FKC, DL;
Prof Kamran Mofid, PhD; Dr Kevin Auton, PhD

Education Advisor: Sir Anthony Seldon, MA, PhD, FRSA, MBA, FRHistS, FKC

