



The Big Think

The Big Newsletter Volume 1

Welcome to our first newsletter! We are getting ready to launch late Autumn, so want to share with you the key elements of our new SMSC values programme for Primary schools.



What is The Big Think?

The Big Think is an empowering, whole-school, whole-child, wellbeing programme for Primary schools that has been developed to build character and address rising numbers of young children with mental health issues, as well as increased levels of childhood anxiety and unhappiness.

TBT programme has been designed to address whole-school unity to include all staff, children, parents, as well as the wider community, and it works flexibly to boost existing school values, wellbeing and learning behaviour strategies.



The Big Think 5 Core Values

Our 5 Core Values link to 44 KS1 and KS2 assemblies and lessons to support a whole-school approach to SMSC and Values Education.



The Big Picture

The Big Think illustrator Galia Pike [@montrouspencil](#) has drawn a stunning image to accompany each story. Children are encouraged to use sentence stems to explore the image with other children and make predictions about the character.



The Big Story

Each assembly and lesson is based around **The Big Story** – a story that allows children to think creatively by walking in the shoes of a fictional character to experience a range of feelings, thoughts and possible responses to dilemmas that they can then apply in their own lives. **The Big Questions** prompted by the story, encourage the children to consider others' viewpoints and think independently.

The Big Think Authors are 8 diverse children's writers from around the UK. They have been selected because of their ability to connect with young children through their use of believable characters, brave story contexts and memorable writers' voice.

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Silent Sitting

At the beginning of each TBT session is Silent Sitting, a short visualisation to still children's minds and allow them to focus. Christiane Kerr [@Calm for kids](#) has written 15 tracks for us, each is a response to a different value and these are currently being piloted in schools to test them out.

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Latest research advocating Character and Values Education

The Dame Kelly Holmes Trust produced a White Paper 'The Opportunities and Challenges offered by Character Education' this July following investigation by a large cross section of people from politics, education and the youth sector who delved into the significance of character education. The report concludes that:

“Character development is when people align their ACTIONS with their considered VALUES”

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