

Ethical Understanding learning continuum

Sub-element	Level 1 Typically, by the end of Foundation Year, students:	Level 2 Typically, by the end of Year 2, students:	Level 3 Typically, by the end of Year 4, students:	Level 4 Typically, by the end of Year 6, students:	Level 5 Typically, by the end of Year 8, students:	Level 6 Typically, by the end of Year 10, students:
Understanding ethical concepts and issues element						
Recognise ethical concepts	identify ethical concepts arising in familiar contexts, such as good and bad behaviours	describe ethical concepts, such as right and wrong, honesty, fairness and tolerance	identify ethical concepts, such as equality, respect and connectedness, and describe some of their attributes	examine and explain ethical concepts such as truth and justice that contribute to the achievement of a particular outcome	analyse behaviours that exemplify the dimensions and challenges of ethical concepts	critique generalised statements about ethical concepts
Explore ethical concepts in context	describe familiar situations that involve ethical concepts	discuss ethical concepts within a range of familiar contexts	discuss actions taken in a range of contexts that include an ethical dimension	explain what constitutes an ethically better or worse outcome and how it might be accomplished	analyse the ethical dimensions of beliefs and the need for action in a range of settings	distinguish between the ethical and non-ethical dimensions of complex issues
Reasoning in decision making and actions element						
Reason and make ethical decisions	identify examples from stories and experiences that show ways people make decisions about their actions	discuss how people make decisions about their actions and offer reasons why people's decisions differ	explain reasons for acting in certain ways, including the conflict between self-respect and self-interest in reaching decisions	explore the reasons behind there being a variety of ethical positions on a social issue	analyse inconsistencies in personal reasoning and societal ethical decision making	investigate reasons for clashes of beliefs in issues of personal, social and global importance
Consider consequences	identify links between emotions and behaviours	describe the effects that personal feelings and dispositions have on how people behave	examine the links between emotions, dispositions and intended and unintended consequences of their actions on others	evaluate the consequences of actions in familiar and hypothetical scenarios	investigate scenarios that highlight ways that personal dispositions and actions can affect consequences	analyse the objectivity or subjectivity behind decision making where there are many possible consequences
Reflect on ethical action	identify and describe the influence of factors such as wants and needs on people's actions	give examples of how understanding situations can influence the way people act	consider whether having a conscience leads to ways of acting ethically in different scenarios	articulate a range of ethical responses to situations in various social contexts	analyse perceptions of occurrences and possible ethical response in challenging scenarios	evaluate diverse perceptions and ethical bases of action in complex contexts

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Exploring values, rights and responsibilities element						
Examine values	identify values that are important to them	discuss some agreed values in familiar contexts	identify and describe shared values in familiar and unfamiliar contexts	examine values accepted and enacted within various communities	assess the relevance of beliefs and the role and application of values in social practices	analyse and explain the interplay of values in national and international forums and policy making
Explore rights and responsibilities	share examples of rights and responsibilities in given situations	identify their rights and associated responsibilities and those of their classmates	investigate children's rights and responsibilities at school and in the local community	monitor consistency between rights and responsibilities when interacting face-to-face or through social media	analyse rights and responsibilities in relation to the duties of a responsible citizen	evaluate the merits of conflicting rights and responsibilities in global contexts
Consider points of view	express their own point of view and listen to the views of others	recognise that there may be many points of view when probing ethical dilemmas and identify alternative views	describe different points of view associated with an ethical dilemma and give possible reasons for these differences	explain a range of possible interpretations and points of view when thinking about ethical dilemmas	draw conclusions from a range of points of view associated with challenging ethical dilemmas	use reasoning skills to prioritise the relative merits of points of view about complex ethical dilemmas