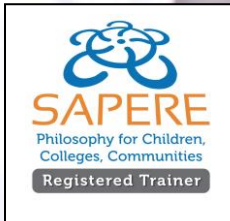




The 21st Century Learners Oracy Hub for schools in Stoke, Staffordshire and Cheshire.



Our training providers

The hub is led by **Dr Neil Phillipson**, who works closely with:

- **SAPERE** - the charity largely responsible for Philosophy for Children (P4C) practice in the UK
- **Dialogue Works** (run by Roger Sutcliffe and offering training in Thinking Moves A-Z – metacognition made simple)
- **Oracy Cambridge** (run by Professor Neil Mercer and a leading provider of oracy training across the UK and internationally)

Neil co-authored the book '**Dialogic Education**' with Professor Rupert Wegerif, and is a lead-mentor with Keele and North Staffordshire Teacher Education.

The 21st Century Learners Oracy Hub has been established in partnership with **Southstar Education and Training** to build on the existing good practice of schools in Stoke-on-Trent, Staffordshire and Cheshire by enabling access to high quality professional development from nationally recognised providers. We hope that by **working together** we will be able to **minimise costs** to individual schools and provide more **ambitious** professional development programmes than might otherwise be manageable.

The hub is able to offer comprehensive support for the development of oracy practice. This includes:

- Full training and support for the **SAPERE P4C** training pathway and School Awards Scheme
- Training and support in **Thinking Moves A-Z** from **Dialogue Works**
- **Oracy Cambridge** training and programmes of support (these range from ½ day introductions to Oracy to years-long programmes of training and support across multiple collaborating schools)

As we develop our offer, **we would very much like to hear from colleagues** across the region about the training and support that they would value.

What is Philosophy for Children (P4C)?

P4C is practiced in approximately 60 countries worldwide. It engages children in **communities of enquiry**, which involve philosophical thinking and **dialogue** around questions and **concepts** that are important in their lives and in the subjects they study. This enriches the children's understanding of these concepts and supports them to engage in better dialogue, supporting their well-being and their capacity to learn.

Getting better at dialogue means getting better at 'thinking together', which ultimately leads to better personal thinking and greater wisdom. The skills and dispositions practised in P4C (by teachers as well as students) spread out **across the curriculum**, leading to a better quality of classroom talk and accelerated progress. You can find out more and view an introductory film at sapere.org.uk and 21stcenturylearners.org.uk.

Available support includes taster sessions, SAPERE training at Levels 1, 2 and 3, and in-school support including working towards SAPERE's School Awards. A '**Pupil P4C Leaders**' course is also available, with training delivered directly to young people.

What is Thinking Moves A-Z (and how does it support **metacognition**)?

The A-Z is a list of 26 distinct acts of thinking. A, for example, denotes the act of thinking 'Ahead', B the act of thinking 'Back' and C the act of 'Connecting'. The A-Z is:

- **Memorable** The alphabet acts as a mnemonic making it easy to learn the names of the 26 moves
- **Comprehensible** Activities and associated language are provided to allow each move to be practised and understood
- **Comprehensive** All cognitive moves are encompassed in the A-Z. They are applicable across **all areas of the curriculum and all phases from early years to secondary**.

If we can recognise and name the cognitive moves we make then we can reflect on their purpose and value. We can then begin to make conscious decisions to apply them. We become better at **metacognition**, leading to better thinking, better learning and wiser decisions – a better way of being! The Moves also support **better questioning** for teachers, and richer **classroom dialogue**. You can find out more at thinking-moves.com and 21stcenturylearners.org.uk.

Available support includes taster sessions, the one day (or equivalent) training course and in-school support.

What support is available through Oracy Cambridge (oracycambridge.org)

Oracy Cambridge provides bespoke, **evidence-based** training and consultancy packages for schools in the UK and internationally. The Oracy Cambridge team (which includes **Neil Mercer**, **James Mannion** and **Alan Howe**) has experience and expertise in a range of areas, including:

Embedding oracy across the curriculum; Leadership of oracy; Assessing oracy; Developing a culture of exploratory talk; Teaching listening; Dialogic teaching and learning; Supporting children with Speech, Language and Communication Needs (SLCN)

Broadly speaking, Oracy Cambridge work with schools on **three levels**:

- **One-off sessions** – keynotes, twilights and INSET days
- **Mid-level** – working with a group of teachers over the course of a year or two – usually middle leaders or oracy leaders
- **High level** – working with local authorities and multi-academy trusts to implement large-scale strategic reform

As our hub develops, we would very much like to hear from you about the oracy training and support you would value. Please do contact Neil Phillipson at neil@21stcenturylearners.org.uk, or on 07512033848