



Character Education

Help your students **develop character virtues!** This **SmartCard** answers some frequently asked questions relating to character education, lists myriad **character virtues** from A to Z, describes a dozen core virtues in detail for you to explore with your students, and provides a **wealth of ideas to develop character** in your class and school, including ideas to **integrate character into your curriculum.**



CARING



CITIZENSHIP



FAIRNESS



HONESTY



INTEGRITY



LEADERSHIP



RESPECT



RESPONSIBILITY

Questions About Character

1. What is character education?

Character education is an intentional, systematic effort to identify and foster in students positive virtues such as caring, cooperation, respect, responsibility, honesty and integrity—virtues fundamental to the development of good character.

2. Why should schools teach for character?

In a time of declining moral values among youth—as evidenced by pervasive violence in schools and within society at large, disregard and disrespect for authority, dishonesty, drug abuse, apathy, delinquency and vandalism—character education is essential. Instilling in students core virtues enhances the quality of their lives, preparing students with life skills to achieve their highest potential. Character education also transmits a shared moral and ethical heritage crucial to the preservation and vitality of a civilised democratic society. Through character education, we fulfill our highest missions as educators—improving the lives of children, and making a difference in the world.

3. Shouldn't parents teach for character?

Of course parents should teach for character. And they should share their religious and cultural beliefs as well. Character education in the school strives to promote universal character virtues that transcend religious and cultural differences. These virtues are not a substitute for parental values, but rather additional support often essential with the transformed modern family and community structure.

4. Won't teaching character virtues interfere with academics?

Character education does not hinder academic achievement. It is not intended as an add-on objective for an already challenging curriculum. The most effective way to promote character development is by integrating core virtues into the existing curriculum and the school culture (see ideas on back). Through integration, character is nurtured in tandem with the pursuit of academic excellence. Further, many character virtues go hand-in-hand with academic success: pursuing excellence, perseverance, delaying gratification, achieving a distant goal, and pride and commitment to high-quality work.

Virtues from A to Z

Ambition	Inspiration
Appreciation	Integrity
Assertiveness	Inventiveness
Attentiveness	Joyfulness
Bravery	Justice
Caring	Kindness
Charisma	Leadership
Charity	Leniency
Citizenship	Love
Cleanliness	Loyalty
Commitment	Mercy
Compassion	Moderation
Concern	Morality
Confidence	Neatness
Conscience	Optimism
Constancy	Order
Contentedness	Patience
Cooperation	Patriotism
Courage	Peacefulness
Courtesy	Perseverance
Creativity	Politeness
Deference	Pride
Dependability	Priority
Devotion	Purpose
Direction	Reliability
Empathy	Resilience
Endurance	Resolution
Enthusiasm	Respect
Equality	Responsibility
Excellence	Restraint
Fairness	Reverence
Faithfulness	Righteousness
Forgiveness	Self-Awareness
Generosity	Self-Control
Gentleness	Self-Esteem
Genuineness	Self-Reliance
Gratitude	Selflessness
Happiness	Sensitivity
Harmony	Sharing
Helpfulness	Sincerity
Honesty	Steadfastness
Honour	Temperance
Humility	Thankfulness
Humour	Thriftiness
Idealism	Tolerance
Identity	Tranquility
Imagination	Vision
Industriousness	Wisdom
Ingenuity	Zeal