



Character Education at Blueberry Park



WHAT IS CHARACTER EDUCATION?

The goal of character education is the good life: one in which we can flourish as human beings, achieve our potential and live meaningfully and harmoniously in communities with others.

Character education is defined as:

‘the implicit and explicit activities that help young people to develop positive personal strengths (virtues).’

The key principles are:

- A life is one in which a person develops and practises virtues.
- Character can be caught, taught and sought.
- Character traits develop through habits.



WHAT IS CHARACTER EDUCATION?

All schools have a statutory duty to promote children's **spiritual, moral, social and cultural development**, and prepare them for the opportunities, responsibilities and experiences of later life.

This all falls under the umbrella of character education.

‘Character education is more than a subject: it’s learning to be a good person, a positive contributor to society, and therefore a good citizen’

(Aidan Thompson, Director of Strategic Initiatives at the Jubilee Centre for Character and Virtues at the University of Birmingham).



HOW DOES CHARACTER EDUCATION BENEFIT CHILDREN?

Put simply, it helps children decide on the kind of person they wish to become.

Character education is intended to equip children with certain qualities and skills.

These include **self-belief, motivation, persistence, self-control, and coping skills**, which help them bounce back after a disappointment or setback, along with virtues like **compassion, curiosity, civility and determination**.

As well as giving them a good foundation for their future lives, character education can improve children's school experience in relation to **behaviour, attendance and attainment**.

Children who receive character education have been shown to have fewer absences from school, and show greater emotional wellbeing and lower levels of distress.



CHARACTER EDUCATION AT BLUEBERRY PARK

Children are receiving character education all the time. Staff model good character through the way they act around school, and we have a set of core values that guide everything we do:

ASPIRE to love learning and love life

- To continue to raise standards through **AMBITIOUS** targets embedded in the curriculum, and in learning and teaching.
- To provide a **SAFE** physical and emotional environment that reflects the diversity of our pupils.
- To ensure that the school is a professional learning community with an ethos of **PERSEVERANCE** and resilience.
- To be **INCLUSIVE** by involving all children in the evaluation of their learning, and planning the next stage of their learning.
- To **RESPECT** the rights and value the contribution of parents, pupils and staff through effective communication and consultation.
- To challenge pupils and staff to achieve personal standards of **EXCELLENCE**.



CHARACTER EDUCATION AT BLUEBERRY PARK

We have a **whole school approach** to character education that supports children to develop their positive, personal strengths and develop their sense of purpose, which we know is a key component of wellbeing and their ability to have successful relationships, now and in their future.

Character education is entwined through just about every curriculum subject.

For example, working on **maths** problems can help to develop children's **focus**, in **history**, studying the life of Winston Churchill could teach them about **resilience**, in **PE**, learning to play team games will teach them about **co-operation**.



Character education is also delivered through activities such as carpet time, assemblies, school council, buddy schemes, prefect responsibilities, community projects, and lunchtime or after-school clubs.

CHARACTER EDUCATION AT BLUEBERRY PARK

CORE VALUES	TERM	THEMES
AMBITION	AUTUMN 1	Courage, Self-Discipline, Kindness, Determination, Gratitude, Honesty
SAFETY	AUTUMN 2	Cleanliness, Courage, Forgiveness, Fairness, Co-operation, Patience
PERSEVERANCE	SPRING 1	Patience, Determination, Self-Discipline, Community, Courage, Honesty
INCLUSIVITY	SPRING 2	Gratitude, Fairness, Kindness, Forgiveness, Co-operation, Community
RESPECT	SUMMER 1	Co-operation, Kindness, Patience, Cleanliness, Gratitude, Forgiveness
EXCELLENCE	SUMMER 2	Community, Determination, Self-Discipline, Honesty, Fairness, Cleanliness

CHARACTER EDUCATION AT BLUEBERRY PARK



**Good Citizen
awards
every half term**

watch your thoughts: they become words

watch your words: they become actions

watch your actions: they become habits

watch your habits: they become your character

watch your character: it becomes your destiny

-frank outlaw-

<https://youtu.be/U3nT2KDAGOc>