



In the Autumn Term of 2020, we welcomed the appointment of our new Head teacher, Nadine Fielding. Immediately after joining the school community, it was clear to Mrs Fielding that discrete emphasis was already placed on the development of children's character at our school. Consequently, it was quickly recognised as an important approach to develop in order to capture and celebrate it more overtly. In bringing Character Education to the forefront of our philosophy and making it more explicit, we feel it has had a hugely positive impact on our children's understanding of the learning and language linked to character.

As such, at Morpeth First School we are dedicated to ensuring that we deliver an outstanding character education, both explicitly and implicitly in order to support our pupils to develop positive personal strengths and virtues, as well as prepare them for a full and flourishing life.

We recognise that for many pupils in our school, they are in the position to succeed academically and receive huge support from home, therefore, the ultimate aim of our character education programme is to assist, guide and nurture our children as they begin to develop their own sense of practical wisdom and grow as future citizens. We strive to equip our children with the tools and skills that they require in order to grasp what is ethically important, enabling them to become autonomous and reflective members of society.

Through our taught, taught and sought curriculum, our character education provision permeates all subjects, as well as the overall school ethos and vision. It is embedded at the centre of all of our aspirational teaching, learning and care. Our 11 character virtues (1 for each month of the academic year), chosen by staff and governors specifically pertinent to the needs of the children in our school, are constantly modelled by our whole school community in order to promote the development of such values in our children.

Across the course of the academic year we focus on;

Respect and Tolerance
Collaboration and Communication with Society
Kindness
Honesty
Courage and Confidence
Optimism and Gratitude
Integrity and a Sense of Justice
Curiosity and Critical Thinking
Resilience and Determination
Ambition and Self-Motivation
Self-Regulation

Children have recently had to cope with long periods of isolation, adapting to constant changes to their lives and many have experienced the effects of coronavirus first hand, some of whom are now dealing with the grief of losing a loved one or a parent. We feel that as a result of the Covid 19 pandemic, supporting children to develop coping strategies in preparation for whatever life throws at them has never been more important.

Character Education is at the very heart of learning within our school and is the golden thread that links our curriculum, ethos and culture together. It is the 'heartbeat' that drives the school forward and as such, we believe that we meet the criteria for the School of Character Kitemark award. We would be thrilled to welcome a representative from the Association of Character Education to visit our very special school.