The Character Curriculum



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Virtue toolkit: L5 - Developing virtue	Learning objective: - Suggest practical ways in which they can develop their virtue	Key vocabulary: Virtue, virtuous, develop, role model, moral dilemma, reflection, influential, moral dilemma Key virtues: Curiosity, motivation, humility
Resources: Powerpoint	Statutory links:	
Key questions:	Learning activities:	
Can we become more courageous/kind/genero us (virtuous)? How do we become more virtuous?	Starter: Can you become kinder? Show the statement 'We can become more virtuous.' Ensure that children are confident with the term 'virtuous.' Discuss:	
What is a role model? Who are your role models?	 Do they believe that you can become more courageous/kind/generous etc? Do you they have any examples of how they have developed particular virtues? How do they think you can do so Ask children to brainstorm ideas in pairs or small groups and feedback.	
What virtues do your role models display? What is the problem(s) in the moral dilemma?	Explain that Aristotle believed that, we are what we consistently do so we need to practice our virtues in order to become more virtuous. The lessons that follow will use some different techniques to develop virtue including looking at role models, moral dilemmas and opportunities for reflection. Activity 1: Role models	
What virtues might be needed?	One way that we can try to become more virtuous is through looking at role models – people who have the virtues that we would like to have.	
Are there any virtues	Show images of influential figures who could be considered to be role models e.g. Obama, Mother Theresa, Gandhi, Martin	



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Flourishing for Life



which clash or are competing with each other?

What is the 'wise' thing to do?

Is there more than one solution?

Luther King Jnr, Winston Churchill, Florence Nightingale. Ask children what they think all of these people have in common? Discuss children's ideas, encouraging a range of answers.

Explain that all of these people are considered by many to be role models (ensure children are confident with the term).

When we seek to develop our virtues, recognising them in action is a key part. Looking at, and learning from, role models and their virtues is one way to do this.

Ask children to identify their individual role models (this may be someone that they know personally or a famous person) and produce a short presentation about them. You may want to use a factfile template. Encourage children to use the virtues definitions from the previous lesson to highlight the virtues that their role model has shown. You may want to create a display of the class's role models to refer to throughout the year.

Activity 2: Moral dilemmas

Another way to help us become more virtuous, is to think through what we would do in tricky situations. This gives us a chance to discuss and rehearse the right thing to do, so that we can do it when the time comes. We will be practising this by looking at moral dilemmas – difficult situations that we might come across in real life.

In the Powerpoints, these will appear in thought bubbles. When we see a moral dilemma we need to think about

- What is the problem?
- How does it make you feel?
- What virtues might be needed?
- What is the 'wise' thing to do?

Plenary: Virtue shield

Explain that an important part of the journey to becoming more virtuous is reflecting on what we are already good at and what we would like to develop further. Reflection activities will be signalled in the textbook by the image of a boy thinking.

Model filling out the virtue shield activity before asking children to fill it out for themselves.

