



COMMUNICATING ABOUT CHARACTER:

MATERIALS TO SUPPORT SCHOOLS TO DELIVER
A WORKSHOP FOR PARENTS AND TEACHERS ON
CHARACTER EDUCATION

The following materials have been produced to support schools to facilitate a workshop with parents and teachers about character education.

The workshop materials comprise of:

- Plan to deliver the workshop: pages 2–3
- Accompanying photocopiable resources: pages 4–6
- Accompanying PowerPoint slides: separate file available to download from: www.jubileecentre.ac.uk/parent-teacher-workshop



Communicating About Character:

Workshop plan

Checklist of materials:

- ✓ Post-it notes (1 per participant)
- ✓ Virtue cards (1 pack per pair of participants)
- ✓ Pens
- ✓ PowerPoint
- ✓ Copies of the moral dilemmas on slides 11 and 12 (one copy of each moral dilemma per pair of participants)

The workshop should be delivered to a mixed group of parents and teachers by a facilitator. Ideally, there should be equal numbers of parents and teachers, or as close to this as possible. Facilitators would benefit from an understanding of character education and experience of working with parents. The workshop has been designed to last approximately 60 minutes and suggested timings for the activities are on the plan. The plan is a guide and facilitators may wish to adapt it to meet the particular needs of their group or school. Accompanying resources are provided in this document. The accompanying Powerpoint document, referenced in the plan, is available to download from:

www.jubileecentre.ac.uk/parent-teacher-workshop

1. Introduction to the workshop (5 mins)

Workshop facilitators introduce themselves to the group.

Explain the purpose of the workshop (**slide 2**).

Ask participants to introduce themselves to the group.

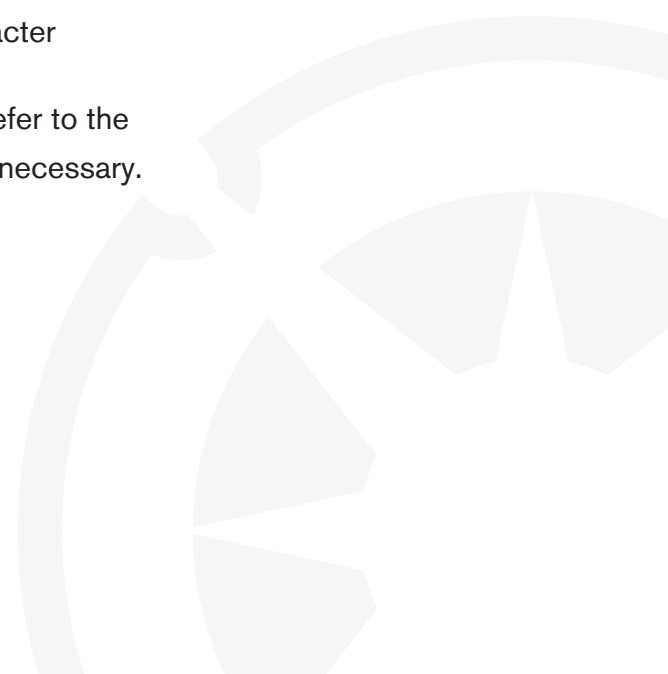
Ask participants to complete the sticky note task on **slide 3**.

2. Definitions (5 mins)

Use **slide 4** to introduce key definitions on virtues, character and character education, from the Jubilee Centre.

Ask participants if any potential virtues come to mind. Refer to the

'Building Blocks of Character' worksheet enclosed if necessary.



3. Ranking virtues activity (5 mins)

Ensure participants are sitting in mixed groups of parents and teachers. Where possible, there should be an equal number of each (ideally pairs) to avoid an imbalance. Use **slide 5** to introduce the activity. Give each group a copy of the '**Diamond 9**' template and the **9 virtue cards** to rank. You may wish to ask participants if they would like definitions or explanations of any of the virtues on the cards. Remind participants that there is no right or wrong answer and that they should work with their partner to discuss which virtues they think are the most important for young people today.

4. Character development discussion activity (10 mins)

Ask participants to discuss the questions on **slide 6** in their groups. Firstly, ask them how they found the virtue ranking activity and why they chose to rank the virtues in that way:

- a. What type of person do you want your child/student(s) to become?
- b. How do we develop good character?
- c. Whose responsibility is it to develop character in young people?
- d. How should we support young people to develop good character?

Ask participants to feed their ideas back to the whole group.

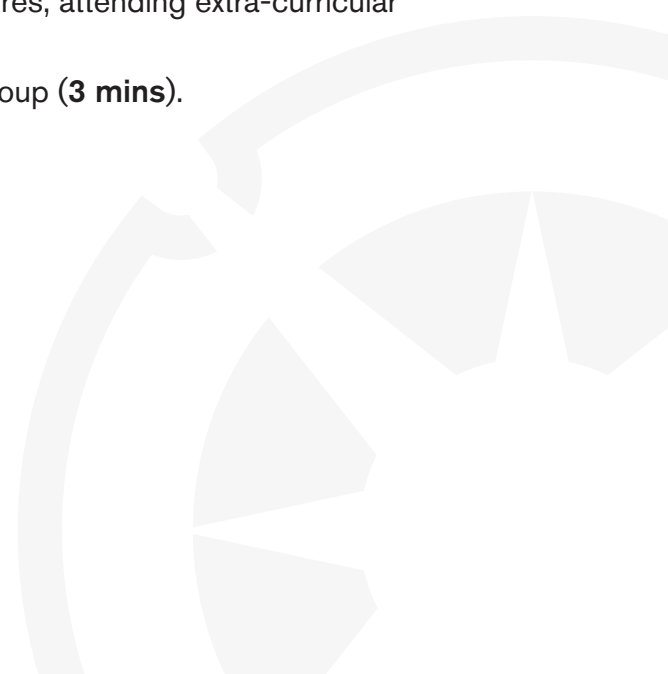
5. Opportunities for character development discussion activity (5 mins)

Ask participants to discuss the questions on **slide 7** in their groups (**2 mins**):

- a. What opportunities are there for students to develop their character in the school day?
- b. What opportunities are there for students to develop their character outside of the school day?

You may wish to provide examples. In the school day, opportunities might include assemblies, PSHE lessons or informal interactions between staff and students. Outside of the school day, opportunities might include doing chores, attending extra-curricular activities or interacting with siblings.

Ask participants to feed their ideas back to the whole group (**3 mins**).



6. Research findings and 'practical wisdom' (5 mins)

Talk through 'What the research shows' (slide 8).

Talk through 'Practical wisdom' (slide 9).

7. Moral dilemmas activity (15 mins)

Read the example of a moral dilemma on **slide 10**. Explain that moral dilemmas are situations where two, or more, virtues are in conflict with each other. There is not a 'right' answer and you have to use practical wisdom to decide what to do. In the dilemma on **slide 10**, parents may be conflicted between wanting to show compassion to their son, recognising his need to fit in and wanting to protect their son from inappropriate material.

Give participants copies of the moral dilemmas on **slides 11** and **12** to discuss in their groups, using the prompt questions at the bottom of each slide.

Ask participants to feed back their ideas to the whole group.

Use the prompt questions on **slides 11** and **12** to guide the group discussions, encouraging the group to focus on their motivations for different courses of action and the potential consequences on the character of the young people.

8. Evaluation (10 mins)

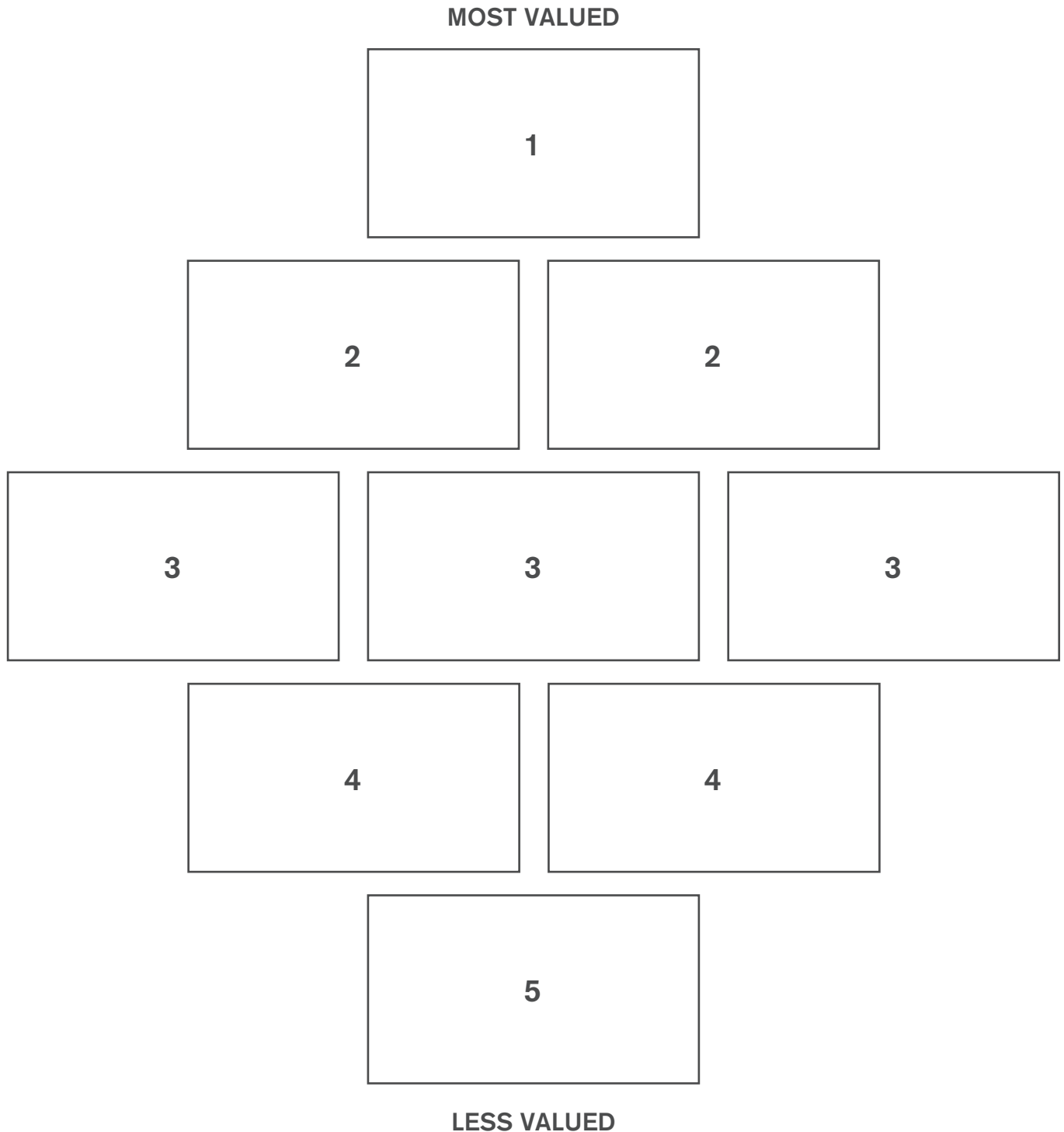
Referring back to the sticky notes taken in at the beginning, and the pointers on **slide 13**, ask participants to share:

- a. Has this been a useful experience?
- b. Where do we go from here (in terms of working together on character education)?
- c. How can we (parents and teachers) continue working together in the future?



Resource Sheet: 'Diamond 9'

The accompanying PowerPoint is available to download from:
www.jubileecentre.ac.uk/parent-teacher-workshop



Resource Sheet: Virtue Cards

Compassion

Honesty

Curiosity

Critical Thinking

Civility

Service

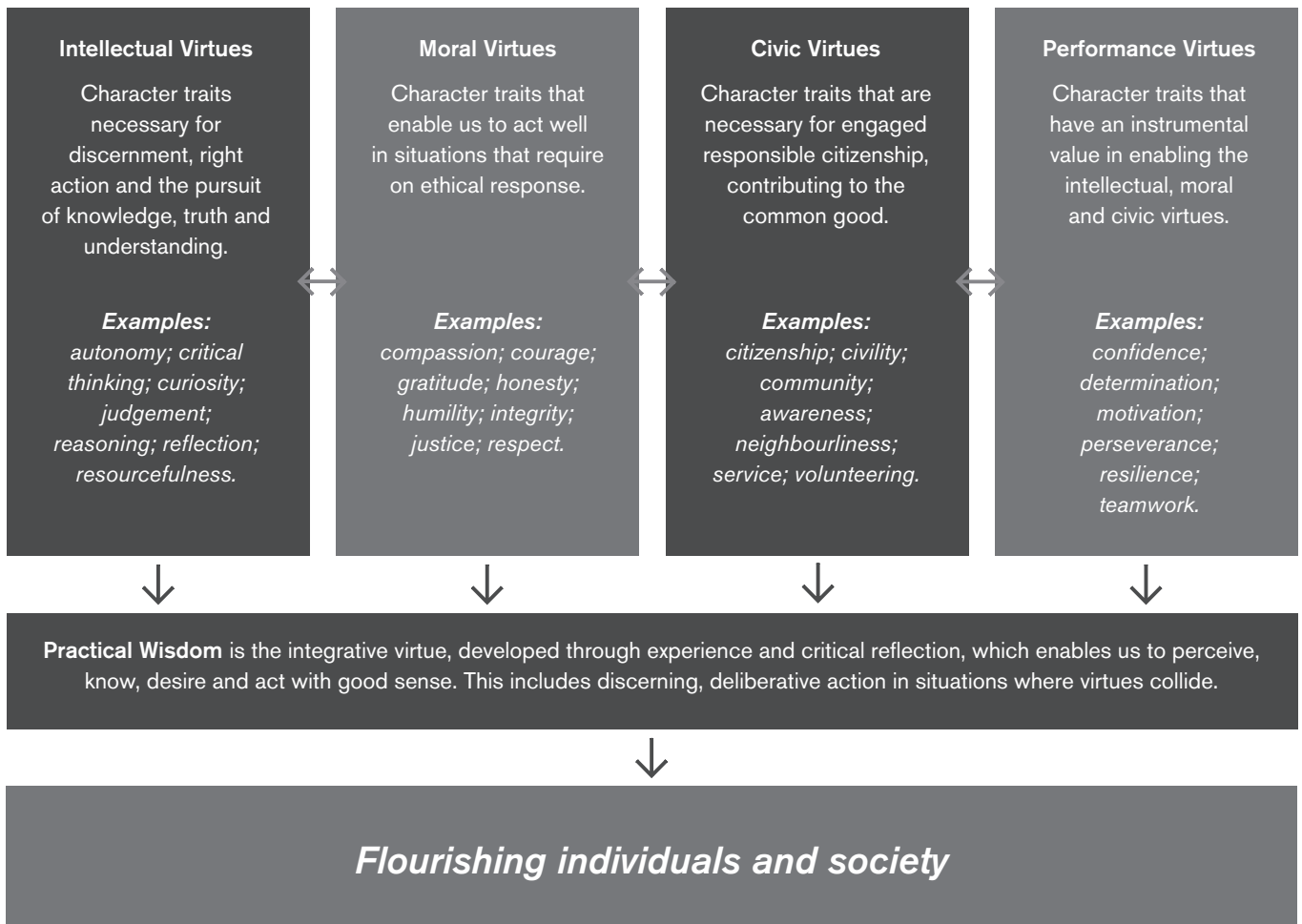
Confidence

Resilience

Wisdom

Resource Sheet: The Building Blocks of Character

THE BUILDING BLOCKS OF CHARACTER



Notes:
