

Why Virtue Matters - Virtue Essay Competition 2015 Finalists:

Honesty

Is Honesty the best policy?

Centuries ago a very famous British writer William Shakespeare once wrote: "Honesty is the best policy. If I lose mine honour, I lose myself." However Benjamin Franklin, a former US President, (in 1700's) 3 centuries ago, was the first person to ever state that 'honesty is the best policy'. These well-known phrases have been integrated to the bank of common phrases worldwide. Some people argue that honesty is a part of society's moral compass. On the other hand some people say that little white lies about Santa clause, if you are adopted and many more. Consequently, I decided to explore the only question left: is honesty the best policy?

Some people such as Religious Leaders often state that 'honesty is the best policy' for a multitude of reasons. Firstly, widely believed some liars never get caught out therefore there is a famous saying said by Winston Churchill "A lie gets halfway around the world before the truth gets a chance to puts its pants on." Secondly, honesty is the best policy because Religious Leaders often state that if you commit a crime and plead guilty it will lessen the sentence; if you plead not guilty you will have a longer sentence. Additionally, if you gain a reputation for lying than people will no longer have faith in you for example: The boy who cried wolf.

Honesty isn't always the best policy because when you plan a surprise party, if you tell the person it's a surprise, it won't be a surprise so if it's a white lie instead of a lie, you will lie, knowing that the truth will come out sooner or later. If you lie to protect someone you are doing it to protect someone so it's



THE
JUBILEE CENTRE
FOR CHARACTER & VIRTUES

Why Virtue Matters - Virtue Essay Competition 2015 Finalists:

for a good cause. Also lying about Santa clause to children can improve their behaviour. So does a little white lie hurt?

In conclusion I think that honesty isn't the best policy because you can lie at time but it can be for a good cause.

Jessica-Jayne Lucas
Topcliffe Primary School