

GST Schools of Character

Overview

All schools within the Trust will undertake Character and Leadership Education in a planned, reflective, conscious and organised way and adopt a core ethos that promotes character virtues.

The Five Guiding Principles

There is no blueprint for effective Character and Leadership Education. However, there are some commonly agreed principles. The following 5 guiding principles define excellence in Character and Leadership Education at each academy within the Great Schools Trust, and serve to guide all schools and others responsible for auditing, planning and evaluating their programs.

Each academy will:

Guiding Principle 1

- **promote core moral, civic, performance and intellectual values as the way of gaining a successful education**
 - Staff, students and parents understand the evidence that demonstrates how successful character education can enhance both moral growth and student outcomes
 - staff, students and parents understand why the academy has chosen the ASPIRE Code to guide its daily life in enhancing pupil outcomes
 - Staff and students constantly and consistently use a common language based on the ASPIRE Code to reinforce the academy's values and aspirations
 - Our core values and aspirations guide the selection and induction professional development of all new staff
 - Our core values and aspirations guide the induction and development processes of all students

Guiding Principle 2

- **deliver these values through a challenging academic curriculum that develops the character of all learners and helps them to succeed**
 - Each of our academies will deliver a knowledge based curriculum in a manner that challenges, excites and motivates the learning of their students
 - Our teachers commit themselves to encouraging all students to seek mastery of the content and skills contained within this curriculum
 - The forensic use of data tracking identifies individual learning need in the promotion of academic growth in order that we can use appropriate support or extension strategies
 - All students are encouraged to produce high quality work and strive for continuous improvement towards the trust's aspirational standards

Guiding Principle 3

- **broaden this curriculum offering by providing all students with opportunities for moral action**
 - Each academy will develop a 'character through leadership' approach to promote character development
 - Each academy will provide all students with opportunities for service learning within the academy (academy council, prefects, peer or cross-age tutoring, service projects, care of the academy environment, combined cadet force, Duke of Edinburgh Award, etc.)

- Each academy will encourage all students to become involved in community service learning experiences
- Each academy will promote peaceful conflict resolution, ethical decision making and academic integrity

Guiding Principle 4

- **ensure that all staff share responsibility for the successful delivery of this extended curriculum and adhere to the same core values as our students**
 - All staff receive induction training that aligns them with the values of the trust and teaches them to encode all praise and reprimands in these values so as to continually reinforce the ASPIRE Code
 - Each academy will strive to create a professional learning environment through the promotion of high quality professional development
 - All staff receive personalised professional development that relates to the outcomes of their performance management so that they can increase their pedagogical skills and knowledge so as to deliver the curriculum through good and outstanding lessons
 - All staff will have equity of access to the Trust's Leadership Academy in seeking to enhance their career

Guiding Principle 5

- **articulate its character related goals and expectations through visible statements of its core ethical and performance values**
 - The Trust's mission statement and core values are clearly displayed around the academy building

- Students recite the King's mantra at the beginning of each lesson to reiterate the expectations expected of themselves and each other.
- Aspiration posters, designed to enhance aspiration and self-motivation are clearly displayed