

TeachFirst

Character and Social Mobility



- Working toward a day where no child is put at an educational disadvantage because of their socio-economic background
- Founded in 2002 in London and has since expanded across England and into Wales
- Trained over 10,000 teachers in schools that serve low income families

The Government and Social Mobility

- Huge focus on Social mobility - Opportunity areas and social mobility commission
- In England as a whole, only 39.2 per cent of pupils on free school meals achieve A* to C in English and maths GCSE, compared with 67 per cent for all other pupils.

Character and attainment

- Lots of research that links the development of resilience with academic attainment
- Development of character traits such as resilience and grit should have an impact on social mobility as they help with the achievement of academic grades




TeachFirst



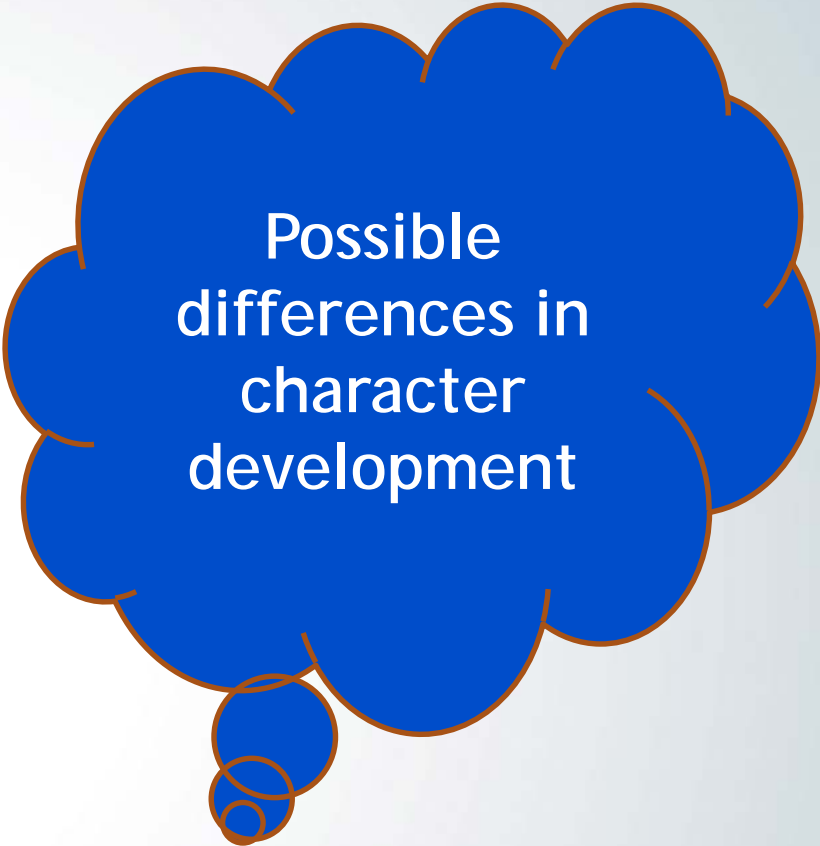
Only 4% of doctors,
6% of barristers,
11% of journalists and
12% of solicitors come
from working-class
backgrounds.

Despite having the same educational outcomes a private school graduate is 2.5 percentage points more likely to work in a top profession after graduation than the state school graduate. Private schools can help young people get things that are less easy to measure than qualifications including social and cultural capital.

Possible reasons



Connections made
through family,
friends and school



Possible
differences in
character
development

Working with vision

- Ideally whole school ethos - but not always implemented
- Can be done on classroom level
- Teach First have found that teachers who were particularly successful in highly challenging schools were those who had a clear sense of vision

Vision and Social Mobility

- Having a clear vision for character development means it can become a clear focus in your classroom
- Sharing the vision with pupils means everyone can be invested and know the value of developing it



Which character traits?

- Honesty
- Integrity
- Self-discipline
- Compassion
- Curiosity
- Reflection
- Communication
- Critical thinking
- Open-mindedness
- Respect

Example vision and backwards plan

- Important to have clear understanding of how this can be taught
- Task - create vision and consider backward plan.
- How will this be shared with pupils and parents?

- Department for Education (2016) *Educational Excellence Everywhere*. London: Department for Education
- Fair Education Alliance (2017) *Report Card 2016/17*. London: Fair Education Alliance
- Feinstein, L. (2015) *Social and Emotional Learning: Skills for Life and Work*. London: Social Mobility Commission
- Gadsby, B. (2017) *Impossible? Social Mobility and the Seemingly Unbreakable Class Ceiling*. London: Teach First
- Morgan, N. (2017) *Taught Not Caught: Educating for 21st Century Character*. Woodbridge: John Catt Educational Ltd
- Paterson, C. (2014) *Character and Resilience Manifesto*. London: The all-party parliamentary group on Social Mobility
- State of the nation 2017 (2017) *State of the Nation 2017: Social Mobility in Great Britain*. London: Social Mobility Commission.