

# ACE WEEKLY Newsletter



Dear Member,

The word 'character' can mean different things to different people.

For instance, sometimes 'character' is interchanged with 'personality.' This is despite the fact that 'personality' is fixed (to a large degree), whilst character is malleable.

This is why having a definition of 'character' to underpin your character provision can be incredibly useful. It ensures a consistency of understanding across a school or organisation. It is an important 'starting point.'

The Jubilee Centre define character as "A collection of personal traits that affect motivation, guide behaviour and produce specific moral emotions," (taken from the Jubilee Centre for Character and Virtues Framework for Character Education in Schools).

So, our character is a set of traits/virtues that inform how we think, how we feel and how we act. So, unless we are thoroughly exploring these individual traits/virtues within our character programme, arguably we aren't teaching character.

Some of the best character curriculum and assemblies break down what individual virtues mean, what these virtues look like in action, and why they are essential for our flourishing.

The assembly below on 'empathy,' from the Garibaldi School, demonstrates this really well.

The Garibaldi School was recently awarded the Quality Mark and has some exceptional resources which we've shared below.

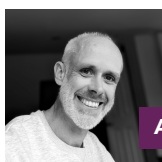
These resources include high-quality reflective practices and emphasise the importance of 'intrinsic motivation' ("good character is what you do when no one is looking").

I hope they are useful for you.

To learn more from Schools of Character, [book your place at ACE Annual Conferences.](#)

Best wishes,

Tom



ACE CEO - TOM HAIGH

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# Best Practice Resource



**REBECCA MOORS**  
**DEPUTY HEAD TEACHER**  
**THE GARIBALDI SCHOOL**

"At The Garibaldi School, we have been on a rapid and transformational Character Education journey over the past year, accumulating in the very proud moment of being awarded the ACE Quality Mark in July 2024.

The success of our journey so far has been the comprehensively and strategically planned approach to implementation. Absolutely every decision made has character in mind. For example, our new Virtue Points rewards approach celebrates virtue based behaviours. Rewards are focussed on intrinsic motivators alongside more substantial rewards linked specifically to the character traits that have been demonstrated so well. For example, those showing outstanding civic virtues will have the opportunity to visit local charities or the Houses of Parliament. Even the rewards students can earn from the school vending machine have been designed to promote characterful behaviours, such as creativity, reflection, communication to name a few.

At Garibaldi, we recognise the importance of ensuring students have access to a wide 'sought' offer, with 100% of all students in KS3 engaging in enrichment, and every student completing the Garibaldi School 'Leadership Academy' in which students are explicitly taught about how to be a leader, providing them all with the toolkit to lead their own agendas and drive change. This has empowered our students to lead their own charity events and represent our school in the community. We are particularly proud of our parental engagement approach, in which we have seen a significant increase in parents coming to school to engage in our workshops around supporting their children in their education and character journey.

Character education and virtue based learning is prevalent across the full curriculum, delivered in bespoke Character drop down sessions, Personal Development lessons, through the mentor and assembly offer and across all curriculum areas. Our teachers have been described as 'practitioners of Character and not just teachers of their subject'

Our next steps are around embedding this work, we are particularly focussing on supporting our students with their own character reflections, encouraging all students to 'practice' their virtuous behaviours. We are excited to see what the next year of our journey will bring."

[RESOURCE 1](#)

[RESOURCE 2](#)

[RESOURCE 3](#)