

Our Lady Immaculate Catholic Character Education 'Virtues to live by'

'God wants your friendship. And once you enter into friendship with God, everything in your life begins to change. As you come to know Him better, you find you want to reflect something of his infinite goodness in your own life. You are attracted to the practice of virtue.'

Benedict XVI, 2010



In order to provide an opportunity for children to develop in their Virtue literacy, we are introducing Catholic Character Education to our curriculum. Catholic Character Education helps to deepen our understanding and appreciation of the essential role virtues play in the education of the *whole person* towards *human flourishing*. Virtues are values in action. They are empowering and are key to fulfilling an individual's potential in relationship with Christ, as they help us to live a good life and follow the right path. We are what we repeatedly do!

The guiding principles of Catholic Character Education is to ensure children and young people are given opportunities to:

1. Experience a positive and purposeful ethos providing a sense of belonging to their school community.
2. Grow in their knowledge and understanding of the virtues.
3. Practise the virtues to further the call to live life to the full.
4. Appreciate the connection between biblical and practical wisdom and living.
5. Hear the Christian story and encounter it in practice.
6. Understand their uniqueness and dignity as made in the image and likeness of God.
7. Know that our limitations are also opportunities for growth.
8. To notice, to reflect, to pray and to play
9. To exercise the cognitive, affective and behavioural components of character: *know it in your head, feel it in your heart and show it with your hands.*

'We are what we repeatedly do.
Excellence then is not an act,
but a habit.'

Aristotle

At Our Lady Immaculate we have chosen eight 'Virtues to live by':

Faith
Hope
Love
Justice
Solidarity
Temperance
Courage
 Practical Wisdom

Every three weeks we will introduce a new Virtue which we all try to live by, and the chosen Virtue will be linked to the academic year. They will be taught and actively promoted as part of our wider PSHE provision, as well as within RE, Collective Worship, and reinforced throughout teaching and learning, in all aspects of school life.

Autumn	Spring	Summer
Respect / Courtesy	Faith	Resilience / Perseverance
Thankfulness	Simplicity	Kindness
Hope	Love / Charity	Honesty
Patience	Forgiveness	Service



Practical wisdom involves knowing how to choose the right course of action in difficult situations and it arises gradually out of the experience of making choices, and the growth of practical and ethical insight.