

Lings Vision - Building character

The function of education is to teach one to think intensively and to think critically.

Intelligence plus character - that is the goal of true education.

Martin Luther King, Jr.

CHARACTER CANNOT BE DEVELOPED IN EASE AND QUIET. ONLY THROUGH EXPERIENCE OF TRIAL AND SUFFERING CAN THE SOUL BE STRENGTHENED, AMBITION INSPIRED, AND SUCCESS ACHIEVED.

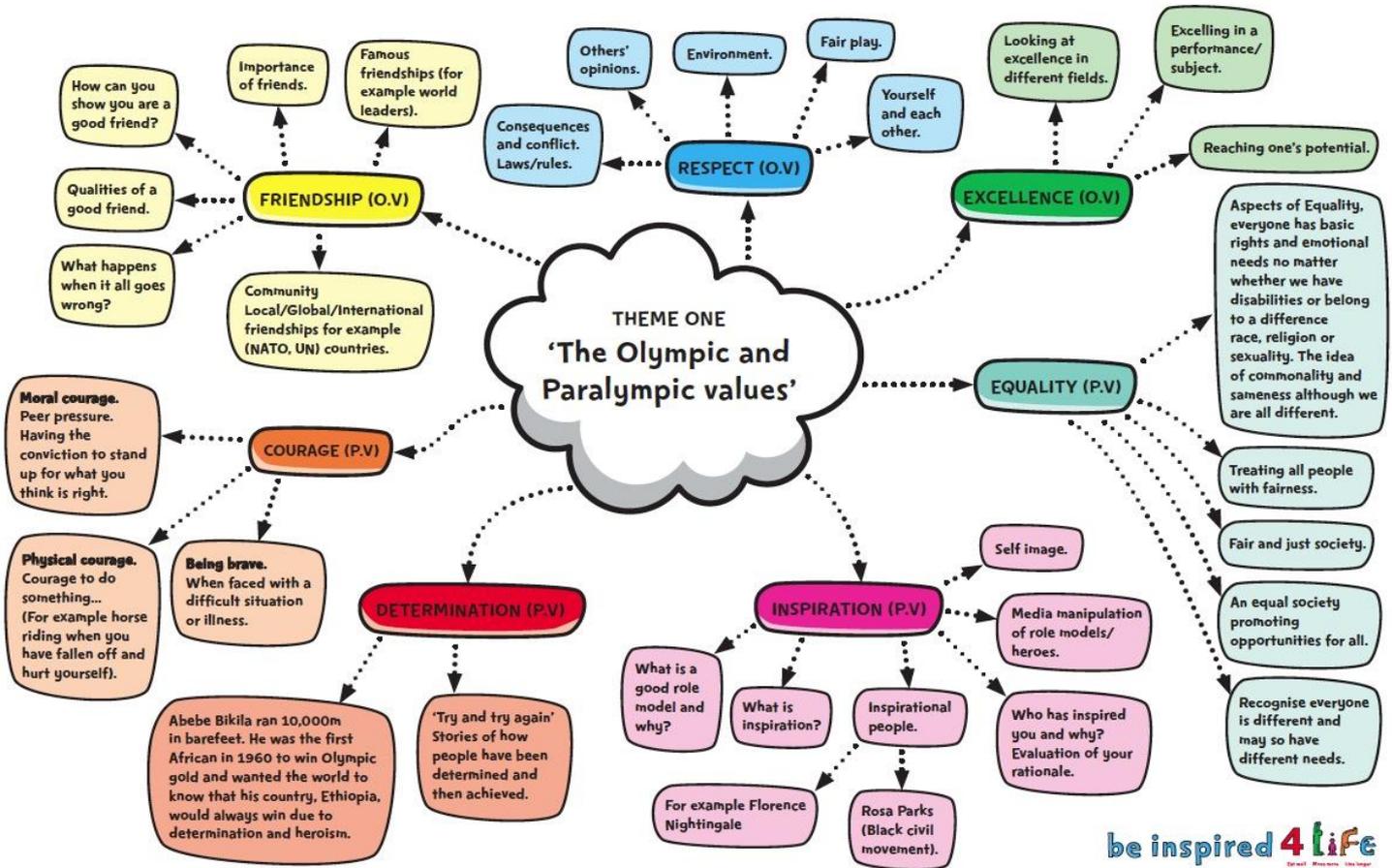
-HELEN KELLER

Character is the foundation stone upon which one must build to win respect. Just as no worthy building can be erected on a weak foundation, so no lasting reputation worthy of respect can be built on a weak character.

(R. C. Samsel)

What character traits are important at Lings Primary School?

Our school has been built upon the Olympic and Paralympic values.



We embrace the values and characteristics of the school games:

The values of the School Games



HONESTY
Be honest with others and with yourself



RESPECT
Treating others politely and with understanding



PASSION
Giving it 100%



DETERMINATION
Keep going no matter what



TEAMWORK
Treating everyone equally



SELF BELIEF
You've got to believe to achieve

We also know that there are characteristics associated with highly effective people:

1. Drive

You have the determination to work harder than most and make sure things get done. You pride yourself on seeing things getting completed and you take charge when necessary. You drive yourself with purpose and align yourself with excellence.

2. Self-reliance

You can shoulder responsibilities and be accountable. You make hard decisions and stand by them. To think for yourself is to know yourself.

3. Willpower

You have the strength to see things through--you don't vacillate or procrastinate. When you want it, you make it happen. The world's greatest achievers are those who have stayed focused on their goals and been consistent in their efforts.

4. Patience

You are willing to be patient, and you understand that, in everything, there are failures and frustrations. To take them personally would be a detriment.

5. Integrity

This should not have to be said, but it's seriously one of the most important attributes you can cultivate. Honesty is the best policy for everything you do; integrity creates character and defines who you are.

6. Passion

If you want to succeed, if you want to live, it's not politeness but rather passion that will get you there. Life is 10 percent what you experience and 90 percent how you respond to it.

7. Connection

You can relate to others, which in turns makes everything reach further and deepen in importance.

8. Optimism

You know there is much to achieve and much good in this world, and you know what's worth fighting for. Optimism is a strategy for making a better future--unless you believe that the future can be better, you're unlikely to step up and take responsibility for making it so.

9. Self-confidence

You trust yourself. It's as simple as that. And when you have that unshakeable trust in yourself, you're already one step closer to success.

10. Communication

You work to communicate and pay attention to the communicators around you. Most important, you hear what *isn't* being said. When communication is present, trust and respect follow.

Be humble and great. Courageous and determined. Faithful and fearless.

We also know that there are key character traits that we need to develop in our Lings Learners.

1. **Resilience** – The ability face failure and to see it as a learning journey towards success.
2. **Aspiration** – A hope or ambition of achieving something and not limiting that goal.
3. **Creativity** – Use of imagination and original ideas to create something.

How are we going to develop these characteristics at Lings Primary school?

Sharing and embedding as a whole school

- Links to all key documents across the school – Vision on behaviour, Learning and teaching vision, Learning strategy vision, Curriculum prototypes, Inclusion policy, Parent Booklet and staff handbook.
- Linked in to termly planning and weekly planning and seen as a key part of the connected curriculum unit.
- Profile is consistently highlighted through weekly assemblies and Headteacher assemblies.
- Success and reward shared through Achievement assemblies in front of staff and parents.
- Using our Element house system to develop the key character traits and to celebrate and reward these traits. Link the Elements to the key characteristics that define these elements. (Please see attached piece of work from Contender Charlie).
- Providing a range of quality extra curriculum clubs that develop these key character traits and develop them even further.
- We will have Showcase events at the last day of every term where every child will get the opportunity to show off the creative skills that they have learnt throughout the term. Every parent will be invited to this event.
- In the last week of every term a highlighted year group will put on a performance based on their unit of work. This will be closely linked to the creative curriculum.
- Every week a year group will be chosen to do a class assembly to showcase the excellent work that they are involved in.
- There will be three House cups presented on a yearly basis. The Autumn term will be the Talent cup, Spring Term will be the Enterprise Cup and the Summer Term will be the Sports cup. The activities involved will be a Lings Talent Show, Dragons Den, The Apprentice and various house sports events.

Consistent curriculum opportunities

We understand the importance of engaging our learners in all aspects of the curriculum but feel by offering the following curriculum opportunities we will develop character further:

- Weekly dance sessions for every child.
- At least three hours of quality sports coaching every week with at least one hour consisting of gymnastics.
- At least 45 minutes a week will be devoted to music sessions.
- Every child will have a diet of drama on a weekly basis with many children experiencing pure drama sessions.
- Weekly problem solving sessions and sessions that focus exclusively on thinking skills.
- A linked creative curriculum that uses all subjects to develop character.
- Regular trips and visits to the community to develop a sense of our role as a citizen.

Enhancing curriculum opportunities

In addition to the above we also believe that we need to work closely with the following agencies and providers to further develop the character traits that we see as important:

- **Saints Study Centre** – Our children will complete a 10 week session in the study centre looking at a range of activities that develop character.
- **Northampton Music Service** – Further develop the potential of individuals and classes by being involved in the Soundstart project and peripatetic music sessions.
- **Royal Shakespeare Company** – Once a year we will complete a unit of work alongside the RSC and the children will travel to Stratford to do so. This is vital in understanding their heritage and giving them aspirations for the future.
- **Community wardens** – Year 5 will be engaged in the community wardens project on a yearly basis and will complete a 10 week course on developing and looking after their community.
- **Magistrates** – Year 6 will be involved in the magistrates project on a yearly basis.

- **Aspirations Project** – We will continue to work with the Northampton Academy and our cluster schools on improving the aspirations of our learners by inviting inspirational speakers in to speak to them about their future.
- **Northampton University** – We will be involved in the STEM project, reading ambassador project and other activities and opportunities that are provided through the university. This will include regular visits to various faculties and our associate status.
- **Children's University** – Our children will be involved in the Children's university project and will gain credits based on the work that they do and the characteristics that they display.
- **Sport** – We will continue our work with Real PE, The School Games, The School Sports Partnership and NTSSF to provide the highest standard of physical development possible.

Extra Curriculum opportunities

We believe it is vital that our learners are involved in a range of opportunities outside the school day. Here are a few of the events that we will take part in on a regular basis:

- We will continue to provide an extensive clubs programme that will focus on developing the whole child. We aim to provide at least 20 clubs on a weekly basis free to every child.
- **Northampton Arts Festival** – Every year the school will take part in the Arts Festival and will also be involved in an NPAT event as well.
- **Strictly Northampton** – Every year Lings will be involved in this event and ballroom dancing will also be club that the school provides on a weekly basis.
- **Break the Shire** – Lings will provide a troupe of Break-dancers for the Break the Shire event and will support the development of youth culture across Northampton.
- **Learning to Grow** – We will work alongside the Learning to grow project to develop our community.
- **Young Voices** – The choir will be involved in the Young Voices event on a yearly basis and we will open this up to parents to come along and support.
- **Sport** – We will aim to take part in at least 90% of every town sports event that has been organised by the NTSSF or the SSP.
- **NPAT** – We will be involved in every project or activity arranged by NPAT and will focus on showing our learners that they are immeasurably linked to the other 5 schools.

What provision will there be for those that may need extra support?

We have a range of ways of highlighting those learners that need extra support or help. Once we have done so we will do the following:

- **Group or individual work** – Our home school support worker, SENCO or a member of our Multi Agency team will be tasked with supporting groups or individuals that need to be engaged in a range of activities to develop them further.
- **Programmes** – We will run various programmes with those learners or groups that need them. These can be from Helping Hands to Protective Behaviours to Conflict resolution. The programme will be dependent on the specific support that is needed.
- **Signposting** – We will look for any relevant professionals outside Lings that can provide the service and support that we need. This may be in the form of counseling, small group work or even Theraplay.
- **Projects** – There are times when we have access to specific projects for children that have highlighted needs. We have worked with Realscape, The Saints, Northampton University and Northampton Academy in the past to provide support for these individual and groups.

How will we celebrate achievement and highlight success?

This list is not exhaustive but these are some of the ways that we will do the above:

- Weekly Achievement assemblies where every parent is invited.
- Class achievement awards and individual achievement awards.
- Certificates for every child that has been part of a particular programme or activity.
- House point system for those that have shown particular excellence in any field.
- House points for those learners that have done things outside of Lings Primary School.
- Class reward system where learners can gain their Bronze, Silver, Gold and Platinum awards.
- Weekly Behaviour, Attendance and Headteachers awards.
- Celebrating achievement on our Facebook, Twitter and Blog pages.
- Pupil voice blog where learners can celebrate others performances.
- The TV screen in the entrance way will celebrate the work that the children have done.
- Displays in the classes, corridors, hall and across the school.
- Specific mention in the fortnightly Newsletter that goes out in paper copy and electronically.
- Celebrate success by working with the Chronicle and Echo to highlight excellence.
- End of year Graduation event for Year 6 pupils and highlighted pupils from across the school.
- House System awards and House points throughout the year with four cups up for grabs!
- Roll of honor and trophies for children that have shown excellence in a range of fields. These will be presented on the Graduation Evening.

How will all this be assessed, evaluated and monitored for impact?

There are a range of ways of doing so and below are some of the methods we will use:

- **Multi Agency Meetings** – Every week we have a multi agency meeting where we discuss a range of concerns across the school. This is a forum that everyone can feed in to and it is a way that we can assess how things are going and which individual and groups need extra support.
- **Formal Data** – We spend a lot of time looking at the Literacy and Numeracy data for every child across the school. We monitor the impact and any trends that may be forthcoming. We use this to track individuals and classes and to see if any help or support is required.
- **PASS** – We use the PASS test (Pupils Attitudes to Self and School) with every year group from year 3 to year 6. We use this data to then see how children are developing and any areas that we need to focus on. We also use it to highlight individuals or groups that may need further help.
- **Reports** – We have formal reports throughout the year and these range from the Summer report to the termly report cards. They comment on characteristics and attitudes and are a good way of monitoring and assessing impact.
- **Interviews** – We often interview learners and groups of learners to see what they feel about any changes that we have made or the school in general.
- **Surveys** – We are going to start using online surveys to look at how our learners are feeling and how parents are feeling about the school and the opportunities we provide.
- **NPAT** – We have a yearly mini inspection where NPAT heads come in to school and assess how we are doing. They look at a learners personal development as a key part of that inspection.
- **Outside agencies** – We constantly work with a range of agencies and ask them to provide detailed reports and feedback. We are also involved in IQM (Inclusion Quality Mark) every three years.

What other documents need to be read in conjunction with this vision?

There are many documents that need to be seen as part of our focus on developing character. The following are the documents / areas that need to be taken in to account:

- Learning and Teaching Vision Document.
- Behaviour policy and Inclusion policy.
- Learning Strategy Vision.
- House System Vision document.
- The Parent and Staff booklet.
- The Curriculum Prototypes.
- Real PE programme.
- Lings Primary Facebook page, Twitter feed, Website and our range of blogs.
- PASS survey results and tracking documents.
- NPAT vision documents and NPAT strategy documents.
- Displays in and around the school and the celebration screen in the foyer.
- Survey results.
- Termly and weekly planning and weekly evaluation sheets.
- Multi Agency minutes.