

“Virtues to Live by”

Overview of the Resources



1. Guiding Principles: the aim of the resource is to build and sustain a school’s ethos through the practise of the chosen virtues. This involves both the development of the school community’s virtue literacy and opportunities to practise the virtues.
2. Before You Begin: this provides an overview of each virtue for the teacher. It includes a virtue definition as well as sources of the virtue in the Bible and other literature. It provides a rationale for the virtue which is based on the work of ‘The Virtues Project’.
3. Staff Reflection: reflection on each virtue supports a common understanding of the virtues. Opportunities for reflection enable teachers to recognise the importance of the virtues for themselves and for the school community.
4. Acts of Worship: worship is essential to build and sustain both the ethos of the school and personal growth in relationship with God. Each weekly act of worship emphasises the importance of reflection on the chosen virtue and its practical application in school and further afield.
5. ‘Virtue to Live By’ statement: provides a positive affirmative statement that stands as a summary of the chosen virtue and is displayed in the classroom and in common areas of the school (Hall, corridors etc.). It is central to the introduction and pursuit of each virtue because it summarises what we are aiming for when we seek to practice the virtues.
6. Circle Time: structured circle time is provided for Early Years, KS 1 Lower KS 2 and Upper KS 2. Circle time is used to explain the chosen virtue, to explore its application and to develop and sustain positive relationships through the chosen virtue.
7. Living the Virtue: suggestions for what a chosen virtue might look like in practice are offered as a guide that is useful for school staff, pupils and parents to give recognition and praise. The sheet can be enlarged for display in classrooms and other areas.
8. Certificate: many schools recognise the achievements of their pupils, particularly in celebration assemblies and increasingly through social media. Certificates can be awarded in recognition of exemplary examples of virtue.