



# **ADVISORY & INSPECTION SERVICE**

## **BEING A SCHOOL OF EXCELLENCE**



### **"Values-based Education"**

(Blueprint and sample lessons)

**NEIL HAWKES  
(SENIOR ADVISER)**

**MAY 2001**



**OXFORDSHIRE  
COUNTY COUNCIL  
EDUCATION SERVICE**



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**OXFORDSHIRE  
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cc: Headteachers of Secondary Schools  
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May 2001

Dear Colleague,

During recent years a great deal of national and local effort has been directed at curriculum development. Despite extensive innovation many schools report that pupil attitudes and behaviour are all too often negative and challenging. Such behaviour inhibits the development of a school ethos that both raises achievement and encourages pupils to be self-disciplined and develop holistically. Research, such as that undertaken by Hay McBer into school effectiveness, indicates that it is the degree to which a school can develop a positive school climate that is a main indicator for a successful school. In Oxfordshire we have been developing a vision for school effectiveness based on values and aims that will inspire a school's community. Such inspiration acts as the "mortar", with the curriculum being the "bricks" in the wall of good practice. The enclosed document aims to assist you as you continue to provide the "mortar" for being a school of excellence.

The enclosed blueprint, sample lessons and other materials will support you in developing a values-based approach to teaching and learning in your school. I am very aware that many Oxfordshire schools are using such a rationale to underpin the curriculum. However, I have been asked by so many colleagues to put together a helpful pack of resources that will act both as a check list and ideas bank that will support schools.

I am aware that I am sending this support at a time of unprecedented change. I hope that you will find the materials timely because if they are considered by the school community and acted upon then they will support you in managing the processes of change to the benefit of the whole community. They are not intended to increase workload or create stress. Indeed, on the contrary, they will help to prevent both these aspects that all too often are seen in schools.

Citizenship is currently high on the educational agenda. The vision of a values-based school contained in the enclosed blueprint will support your schools' development of active citizenship. Values-based education is not a new subject to be incorporated into the curriculum, rather it is an educational philosophy, an approach to teaching and learning that underpins the way a school organises itself, develops relationships and promotes positive human values. Schools that adopt such an approach report that there is a qualitative improvement in pupil attitudes and behaviour. Furthermore academic results are seen to improve with the added bonus of teachers finding that their work is less stressful.

The **purpose** of values-based education is:

- ✍ To help the school community think about and reflect upon positive universal values and the practical implications of expressing them in relation to themselves, others, the community and the world.

✍✍ To inspire individuals to choose their own positive personal, social, moral and spiritual values and be aware of ways for developing and deepening them as world citizens.

From my experience both as a headteacher and adviser I am convinced that values-based education supports schools in promoting an inclusive school ethos and the methods of working that raises achievement and helps pupils to raise their self-esteem and take greater responsibility for their own behaviour and learning. Overall, it enables pupils to examine the kind of life that is worth living and to consider what kind of life they want for themselves.

The enclosed document is the third in a series that will support values-based education. It follows the documents on the *Role of the Assembly* and *Reflection*. I am delighted that so many headteachers have found these documents to be of practical help in developing their schools. I know that I can rely on you that you won't consider the enclosed just as a piece of curriculum design that can be issued to staff for them to implement. It is, of course, much more complex, leading to a personal and social transformational process that effects all aspects of school life. Values are acknowledged to be at the heart of leadership by the General Teachers Council in all its recent publications. We can never be value free so the process of self-evaluation is crucial if we are to appreciate the effect that our values have on the life of the school. Values is a generic term and as such is limited and open to misunderstanding. Please don't let the term values put you off, as other terms such as *principles* or just *good educational practice* can replace it.

At the core of values-based education lies an agreed set of principles, deeply held convictions, that underpin all aspects of a school's life and work. The process is holistic and developmental, demanding a great deal from the school's community. However, the demands have a tremendous return in terms of improved ethos, relationships, pupil behaviour, quality of work and general achievement. Staff report that once the system is embedded in the school then their work becomes easier! This is a great selling point!

I am most grateful to the Values-based Education Task Team whose schools have pioneered much of the enclosed material. The enclosed sample values lessons were produced over a two year period by staff who have worked at West Kidlington Primary School. The full set of lessons will be made available to purchase later in the year. Also in the Autumn term I shall be organising seminars, to which you will be invited to attend, that will give us an opportunity to discuss the enclosed.

I am very keen to hear about your experiences using a values-based approach so please send me samples of your own work and anecdotes of your own good practice. I am very conscious that there are many schools which are developing similar approaches and I would very much like to share their practice.

I am aware that this introductory letter has been longer than I would normally have wished. I am sure though that you will appreciate the necessity for giving a rationale so that you will share my enthusiasm for values-based education as a philosophy for developing and supporting schools of excellence.

With warmest wishes.

Yours sincerely,

**Neil Hawkes**  
*Senior Adviser*

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## **One Headteacher's experience of introducing values-based education**

Stonesfield Primary School, along with an increasing number of schools in Oxfordshire, has embraced an approach to education called values education. In assemblies and class lesson times staff and children explore on a rolling programme values such as tolerance, respect, patience and hope. We are on a journey *together* as we develop and deepen our understanding of these values, of ourselves and of each other.

In our modern society values education helps to fill the void in our collective consciousness that has been left by the widespread rejection of centuries of religion. Although we are still guided in our morality by the state and judiciary, our laws and the complexity of their consequences are not easily translatable for young children. Values education offers an accessible moral code to a society which prides itself on individualism and yet which seems to be desperately adrift and searching for answers to our existence.

Values education offers a gentle introduction to the complexity of most of life's moral issues. Because values in turn are explored over a period of weeks, and are not presented as isolated matters, it allows us to delight in the extraordinary nature of things. We discover in our explorations that patience is an admirable virtue but that it is not always an appropriate response for every situation: patience *can* lead to inaction and this may not be healthy or positive. Values education does not insist on one 'right' view point of the world but encourages instead the individual to ponder, engage with, examine and explore issues, see life from different approaches and thereby develop an innate sense of empathy for different view points and considerations, as well as an intellectual curiosity about our world.

There are many apparent paradoxes within this philosophy: values education is, to a large extent, intangible and yet the effect of it in a school is palpable; it is supremely gentle and yet extraordinarily powerful; it does provide a clear framework and yet allows, even relies upon, freedom of thought and response. This enables the child to have a window on the world that is by its very nature complex and, at times, uncertain.

For a class teacher, values education provides a clear reference point for talking about things that pertain to all children in school: behaviour, relationships, self-worth and any other every day issues. It is egalitarian and has relevance to all children's lives: it is not set within a specific time frame, is relevant to children of all ages, ability, social class, culture and religion.

Through engaging in values education it has become clear to me that many children have an innate sense of their own spirituality and are in the process of developing a personal morality. I have seen such enthusiasm for this work from the children themselves that fills me with a certain hope for the future of our society.

I commend values education to you.

***Bridget Knight***  
***Headteacher***

# VALUES EDUCATION

## Blueprint: how to introduce a values-based curriculum

### 1. First principles

✍️ Decide why you want to introduce values-based education and what it is about. Values are principles, fundamental convictions, ideals, standards or life stances that act as general guides to behaviour or as reference points in decision making.

✍️ Are you willing to act as its main role model and advocate because it embodies your vision, aims and values not to mention the school's pedagogy? Values education is most effective when the headteacher acts as a role model and ensures that it is at the heart of the school's philosophy. Consider issues to do with the school's context that will impact on how you introduce the process of values education. Consider carrying out an audit so that you can canvass staff, governor and pupil opinion and enlist their help. This is important as values education is a community activity and not an imposition from one person or a pressure group. If possible, consider visiting a school that already has a values-based curriculum, to get a 'flavour' of how it works.

✍️ A question could be, what positive values should we promote at school?

✍️ Be clear about the values that you wish to emphasise in the school. These should be adopted as a result of a consultation which could include a staff/governor workshop. In my experience all groups produce very similar lists of values as they are not dependent on race, culture, class or religion. A set of universal positive values will emerge that may include: honesty, peace, humility, freedom, cooperation, care, love, unity, respect, tolerance, courage, friendship, patience, quality and thoughtfulness.

✍️ Remember that the way you introduce values into your school will be dependent on your particular context and the needs of your pupils. This will include an understanding of the needs of the adults too! The effective care of staff is a fundamental principle of values-based education. Considering how your school meets the needs of staff and pupils is a crucial aspect and will draw out issues concerning the valuing of all pupils, showing pupils respect and being authentic as a person – the pupil soon spots inconsistencies between what teachers say and what they do. A good sense of fun and humour is also a prerequisite.

### 2. Method

✍️ Audit your school's institutional values. How are visitors greeted? How do staff interact with each other? What do displays and the general care of the school say about the school's values? Such an activity will help focus attention on developing a positive school climate where values are seen as vital in underpinning the curriculum. Talk about the school's ethos with staff, parents, governors and pupils by looking at the way you do things in your school. By being self-reflective and encouraging others to be so you will develop a reflective school – one that is responsible and takes control of its own development. Self-

reflection is central to the establishment of a school that embodies values. It encourages pupils to work on themselves and their own attitudes and behaviour before criticising others. Think how your school contributes to the spiritual, moral, social and cultural (SMSC) development of your pupils. Identify subjects that make specific contributions and consider any particular methods that you currently use that promote the values of the school.

✎✎ In order to create a positive school ethos there must be a commitment by the whole staff to the effect that values-based education is central to the school's mission. Throughout the process of introducing core values there must be staff, pupil, family and community involvement. Remember too the induction process for new staff. It is important that everyone is involved.

### **3. Key Teachers**

✎✎ Identify key teachers who will be advocates for the value work. These teachers, through their enthusiasm, commitment and "walking their talk" create the impetus which ensures that values lie at the core of the curriculum. They will act as role models who will encourage the whole school community. Ideally one teacher should act as curriculum leader/coordinator for values work so that the elements of values education can be carefully coordinated.

✎✎ Give time for key teachers working with staff to analyse the current ethos of the school by determining the elements of good practices that already exist. Celebrating current good practices is key to encouraging teachers to develop values-based education. One school found in its audit that it currently gave emphasis to respecting pupils and ensuring that they were never criticised as people, only, when necessary, their inappropriate behaviour.

✎✎ When good practice areas are identified, they can be built on and extended. E.g. School's Council, peer mediation, aspects of classroom management and organisation that promote positive behaviour.

### **4. Teaching and learning**

✎✎ Values cannot be taught in isolation but the school can provide experiences and situations in which the school community can consider and reflect about values and translate this reflection into action in the lives of its members. In order to do this the school needs to provide, in a conscious deliberate way, for the implicit and explicit consideration of values. This is done:

- (a) by introducing values in a programme of assemblies. One value is highlighted each month. An assembly is then devoted to explaining the value in a way appropriate to the age and stage of the pupil. Staff also gain a deepening of their own understanding by taking part in such assemblies. If the school has a list of twenty-two core values then one value can be the focus each month during a two year cycle – August excepted! Staff can follow up the assembly with their classes. Some schools promote pupil

assemblies for which pupils take significant responsibility. These are excellent vehicles for pupils to relate the value to their own experience and make an appropriate presentation to other classes. Values are imbibed when children can relate them to real life situations. Time is given during assemblies for silent reflection. This encourages pupils to go within themselves and they learn to become calm and focussed. Reflection can be used as an aid to learning in any lesson. Story telling is an excellent medium for framing the meaning of a value. (For more information please see the document about the role of reflection that was sent to schools in January 2001.)

- (b) Each class teacher will prepare one value lesson each month that will build on the assembly. A variety of inclusive teaching and learning styles should be used to ensure that all pupils are engaged in the thinking process. These lessons are often described as philosophy for children, an apt description, as pupils have to consider real life situations, reflect on their own behaviour and responses, listen to those of others and learn to reflect on the reasons for their own reactions to events. This process develops emotional literacy, which is the ability of a pupil to think and talk about their emotional responses. This is the central process that enables children to gain responsibility for their actions (self-discipline). A by-product of this process is that the self-esteem and confidence of the pupils improves as do their oral skills. It is interesting to note that boys seem to benefit greatly from the process of reflection. Generally speaking this is something girls do more readily. The Socratic method of differentiated questioning extends children's thinking and is another excellent method that deepens understanding.
- (c) By implicitly weaving values, like a seamless robe through the fabric of the curriculum, all teaching and non-teaching staff are encouraged to use the value of the month in their work with pupils. The value of the month should be the subject of a prominent display in the school and similar displays could be in each classroom. One school has a value for the month poster in each classroom.
- (d) Through newsletters to parents, explaining what the value of the month is and how they can develop them at home. (Parents respond very positively to this involvement.) Workshops for parents are also a very useful way of engaging the community. Governors taking part in these sessions demonstrate to the parents the importance that is being placed on the work. At induction sessions for new parents to the school the headteacher can explain the school's values education policy and enlist their support.

## **5. Skills, knowledge, attitudes and understanding**

✍️ Decide the range of skills, knowledge, attitudes and understanding that you wish to develop in the pupils. Remember that you are encouraging the holistic development of the pupil. This includes the spiritual world of the pupil – the inner world of thoughts and feelings. By encouraging spiritual development the pupil is given the opportunity to learn how to observe their thoughts and thereby encourage positive thinking. Learning how to focus attention and to actively listen whilst sitting still are other skills that promote reflective learning and good interpersonal skills. Lasting learning is associated with positive emotions

and feelings. Long-term learning is promoted through frequent opportunities to reflect and to recall. In our society people suffer from overload and fragmentation – forms of chaos! A values approach to teaching and learning creates stability and empowers the individual to be in control of his/her reactions to situations that otherwise could create a negative reaction. The development of a proactive school's council has the potential for giving pupils opportunities to feel involved in decision making that affects the life of the school.

## **6. Benefits for the pupils**

- ✍✍ Identify the benefits that pupils will experience as values-based education is introduced. These should include: improved concentration, better pupil behaviour, improved social and academic standards. Issues concerning achievement, quality of learning, the raising of self-esteem, the development of reflective practices should all be considered.

## **7. Conclusion**

- ✍✍ It is vitally important that all staff members feel involved in the process of values education, so consideration must be given to in-service education. Throughout the process, share the development with parents and the wider school community.
- ✍✍ Finally, ensure that the process is well-planned, monitored, evaluated and celebrated in order to keep the process alive and constantly under review.

## VALUES EDUCATION POLICY

### Aim

To raise standards by promoting a school ethos which is underpinned by core values that support the development of the whole child as a reflective learner.

### Rationale

At our school we are giving a great deal of thought to the values that we are trying to promote in school. We regularly consider our core values and how the school sustains an ethos, which supports the pupil as a reflective learner and promotes quality teaching and learning. We are so very aware that society is faced with enormously complicated problems, which makes growing up a very difficult process. Children are constantly bombarded with negative messages, which adversely affect their mental, emotional and spiritual development. Also, they are repeatedly being given the impression that happiness is totally obtainable from a material world. They are conditioned to believe that 'things' will provide happiness. For example, advertisements encourage children to believe that the only source of entertainment is derived from the television or video! They are generally encouraged to experience life in a world totally external to their inner-selves: a world, which is full of noise and constant activity. Impressions of society being violent and selfish leave their mark as the child develops into adolescence. Symptoms of pupil stress are seen as children finding it difficult to listen attentively and to give school work their full concentration. Social relationships suffer as the child often fails to appreciate that building meaningful relationships is their responsibility.

As a school community, we believe the ethos of the school should be built on a foundation of core values such as *honesty, respect, happiness, responsibility, tolerance and peace*. These will at times be addressed directly through lessons and the acts of worship programme, whilst at others they will permeate the whole curriculum. Either way, they are the basis for the social, intellectual, emotional, spiritual and moral development of the whole child. We encourage pupils to consider these values, thereby developing knowledge, skills and attitudes that enable them to develop as reflective learners and grow to be stable, educated and civil adults.

### Elements of Teaching and Learning

The elements of values education are:

- ✍ Ensuring that the school's institutional values are consistent with the values that pupils are encouraged to develop;
- ✍ actively promoting a whole school policy that wins the support of both teaching and non-teaching staff and is led and monitored by the headteacher;

~~✓~~Introducing monthly values through a programme of school assemblies. (Consider having a two yearly cycle of twenty two values.) Pupils are encouraged to be involved in exploring their understanding of values in pupil led assemblies;

~~✓~~directly teaching about values in values lessons. These lessons provide opportunities for personal reflection, moral discourse, and an appropriate activity to promote understanding. Teaching and learning about values takes places in the following steps:

1. By teachers explaining the meaning of a value;
2. Pupils reflecting on the value and relating to their own behaviour;
3. By pupils using the value to guide their own actions;

~~✓~~Ensuring that staff model the values through their own behaviour;

~~✓~~Ensuring that values are taught implicitly through every aspect of the curriculum.

## VALUES EDUCATION – sample lessons

### Helpful thoughts

*These are sample lessons developed and taught at West Kidlington Primary School as staff began to develop values education across the whole school. Hopefully they will serve to be a bank of ideas to be dipped into, added to and developed as each new teacher or school feels appropriate.*

A few thoughts about using these lessons may be helpful:

#### **Classroom ethos**

Maintaining an ethos in the classroom that is positive and all inclusive, with a feeling of equality, will help children gain most from values lessons. It is important that any approach to class management is in line with the values being taught. Children soon feel secure and able to share their thoughts, feelings and experiences when they know that these are always welcomed and valued. Children also will respond quickly when the teacher is aware that he or she is an important role model as values are very much 'caught'.

#### **Reflection** (Stilling/silent sitting)

Most of the enclosed lessons would have begun with a period of 'reflection'. This is a time when the children are expected to sit still and silent for anything from one to four minutes, usually with some soft music and perhaps facilitating words from the teacher. This has proved to help children in a variety of ways. It regulates breath and heartbeat and so calms and relaxes the body. It quietsens the mind, focuses attention and increases concentration. It helps to develop awareness and intuition, and the children are more able to get in touch with their own feelings. (For more information see the AIS document 'Being a School of Excellence – the role of reflection' published January 2001.)

#### **Story Telling**

Using a story where possible as a stimulus for the lesson has many advantages. It can put across the value in a way that all levels of awareness can access. It generates feelings, captures attention and often inspires. The listener is able to find parallels in their own experiences which can help in future difficult situations.

## Discussion

After the lesson stimulus, whole class discussion allows the value to be explored more deeply. The children gain insight from each other, especially if the teacher becomes practiced in facilitating Socratic discussion, summarising ideas and leading the children into considering further possibilities.

## Lesson format

- ✍✍ Each lesson has a helpful section on teacher understanding. (A list of definitions of 12 values is enclosed that may further aid understanding.) It is important that the teacher is able to translate this understanding into the living experience of the child.
- ✍✍ Use a stimulus for the lesson that may be based on a story, discussion, experience or artefact, etc. The learning objective should be made clear. Eg to understand why the value of honesty is an important guide to our behaviour.
- ✍✍ Next is the teacher-led discussion that lies at the core of the lesson. Careful questioning leads the pupils to a deeper appreciation of meaning and helps them to translate the value into areas of their own experience. Lessons are not theoretical but should aim to help the pupils to modify and expand their own thoughts and actions.
- ✍✍ The next section of the lesson will be an activity that will encourage pupils to engage with the value.
- ✍✍ Finally, a plenary session of review to evaluate understanding and to draw out key points that aid further development.

## Enjoy!

Enjoyment should be a key characteristic of values lessons and is vitally important. Children soon begin to look forward to their values lessons. They know what to expect and participate in all its elements with enthusiasm. As you use the lessons you will soon find and substitute your own stimulus and develop your own activities. Teaching values across the curriculum then becomes automatic. Aim to make enjoyment a key element and you will see positive effects in many other areas of school life.

## VALUES EDUCATION

Twelve values and their definitions

### **Co-operation**

Co-operation is helping one another

Co-operation is working together with  
patience

Co-operation is collective effort to  
reach a goal

### **Happiness**

Happiness is knowing I am loved

Happiness is giving everyone good  
wishes

Happiness is love and peace inside

### **Responsibility**

Responsibility is being fair

Responsibility is doing my share of the  
work

Responsibility is taking care of myself  
and others

### **Simplicity**

Simplicity is natural and beautiful

Simplicity is putting others first

Simplicity is appreciating the small  
things in life

### **Freedom**

Freedom is choice

Freedom is living with dignity

Freedom is when rights are balanced  
with responsibilities

### **Unity**

Unity is togetherness

Unity is collective strength and  
harmony

Unity is personal commitment

### **Peace**

Peace is when we get along

Peace is having positive thoughts for  
myself and others

Peace begins within each one of us

### **Respect**

Respect is knowing I am unique and  
valuable

Respect is liking who I am

Respect is listening to others

### **Love**

Love is caring and sharing

Love is feeling safe

Love is wanting good for others

### **Tolerance**

Tolerance is accepting myself and  
others

Tolerance is knowing we are all  
different

Tolerance is being understanding and  
open-minded

### **Honesty**

Honesty is telling the truth

Honesty is trust

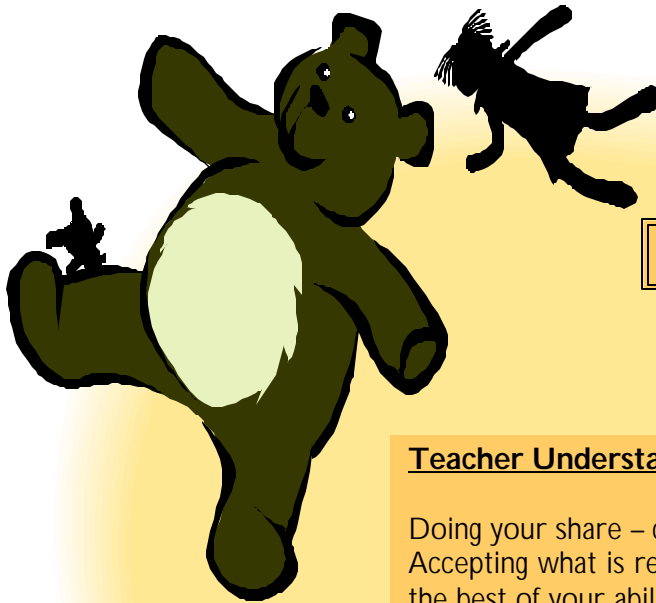
Honesty is being true to yourself and  
to others

### **Humility**

Humility is accepting everyone

Humility is self-respect and self-  
esteem

Humility is courage and confidence

**VALUE: RESPONSIBILITY****Teacher Understanding**

Doing your share – carrying out duties with integrity.  
Accepting what is required and carrying out the task to the best of your ability.  
Responsibility lies at home, school, in our world.

**Stimulus**

Joe's Café by Rose Impey

**Discussion**

What does the word responsible mean? eg looking after and taking care.  
Who was Joe responsible for in the story? Did he look after his little sister well? Why not?

**Activity**

Can you think of any responsibilities you have ie classroom jobs, little sisters?





YEAR 2



# VALUE : RESPECT

## Teacher Understanding

The first respect is respect for the self – to know that "I" am valuable – know my own qualities.

Then respect is valuing the worth of others and our environment.

## Stimulus

- A. Story of "The Hare and the Tortoise". (Aesop's Fables)
- B. Assembly - Respect

## Discussion

- A. (1) The Hare was very good at running and so automatically knew he would win, whilst the tortoise persevered despite being 'slow and steady'.
  - (2) Ask children how they can identify with the hare -what they do well.
  - (3) Repeat above exercise for the tortoise – what do the children feel they are determined to continue with despite any difficulties?
- B. Everybody is good at something – important. Reference to people leaving flowers at Royal Palaces – 'paying their respects to Diana, Princess of Wales' – valuing her good qualities and remembering her.

## Activity

Children record their experiences on paper.



# VALUE :TOLERANCE

**YEAR 3**

## Teacher Understanding

(Peace is the goal, tolerance is the method.)  
Tolerance is accepting myself, even when I make mistakes.  
Tolerance is accepting others, even when they make mistakes.  
We are all unique and have something valuable to offer and share.  
Tolerance is accepting others and appreciating differences.

## Stimulus

Teacher leads discussion by telling of a time when tolerance needs to be shown.

## Discussion

When have you had to be tolerant?

## Activity

Circle time with children sharing personal experiences about being tolerant. How did they feel – was it easy or difficult? What was the outcome? What might have happened if they had not been tolerant?



AM

### **Teacher Understanding**

Simplicity:

- ✍ appreciating the simple things in life and nature;
- ✍ freedom from material desires and emotional desires – simply 'be';
- ✍ avoids waste, teaches economy, avoids value clashes complicated by greed, fear, peer pressure and a false sense of identity;
- ✍ from it grows generosity, sharing;
- ✍ putting others first with kindness, openness, pure intentions without expectations and conditions.

### **Stimulus**

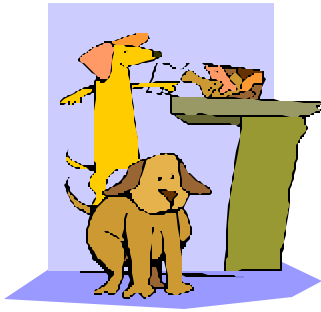
Walking in the grounds looking at trees.  
Thinking about the sights and sounds of nature.

### **Discussion**

Discuss the importance of our responsibility to look after our world – nature.  
Listen to sounds and look with wonder at trees appreciating the simplicity of nature.

### **Activity**

Write a poem about trees.



**YEAR 5**

# VALUE: CO-OPERATION



## Teacher Understanding

Working as a team – having good wishes for others.  
Those who co-operate receive co-operation.  
Co-operation is everyone's responsibility but takes courage and willpower to achieve.  
Co-operation require recognising the unique role of every individual whilst keeping a sincere, positive attitude.

## Stimulus

Story of "The Chopsticks and the Chinese Warrior" from 'Showing another way' collection of assemblies for junior children by David Downton and Mike Sandy (Moorleys Publishing).

## **Discussion**

Why did the warrior wish to see hell first?  
Why were the people so thin and weak when there was so much food?  
How did the people in heaven manage to eat the food with chopsticks which were as long as those in hell?  
Have you ever been selfish and found yourself worse off?  
How do you have to co-operate at school/home?  
What does it mean to be selfless?

## Activity

Writing: "A time when I needed to co-operate" or "A time when I needed co-operation from others", or

Drama: dramatise the story to present in a school assembly.



**YEAR 6**

# VALUE: FRIENDSHIP

## Teacher Understanding

- ✍ The only way to find a friend is to be one.
- ✍ Learning to be a true friend means facing yourself, observing your actions and attitudes to others – this takes great courage.
- ✍ Friendship is an act of giving to others.

## Stimulus

Books: The Lion, The Witch and The Wardrobe – C. S. Lewis  
Enid Blyton books. 5 Children and It.

## Discussion

Talk about relationships within the book. Friendships and the way they have developed and been tested. How have people changed as a result of friendships – what lessons have they learnt?

## Activity 1

Sit and reflect for 3 minutes and think about your actions and attitudes to others. Think about this motto 'do unto others what you would like to be done to you'. What have you done this week that was/wasn't friendly to others.

## Activity 2

Drawing of yourself in middle of page. Surround by thoughts of how you could be a friend and what friendship means to you. Give some examples.



# VALUE: LOVE

## YEAR 1

### **Teacher Understanding**

Love sustains human relationships with dignity and depth  
Love doesn't involve dependency or control, but kindness, caring and understanding.  
It is wishing another person happiness and taking pleasure in their well-being.  
It is unconditional and unselfish.

### **Stimulus**

Valentine cards.  
Song 'Love is something if you give it away'.

### **Discussion**

Why is it important to show people that you love and care about them. How would you show 'love' to people? Why do we celebrate St. Valentine's Day? Story of St. Valentine and how he showed love.

### **Activity**

Design a Valentine card – sentence inside about what love means or write a list of how we show love ie making our beds, putting our things away, taking care of pets etc.

AM



# VALUE: COURAGE

## Teacher Understanding

Courage means 'feeling the fear' and doing it anyway.  
 Courage to overcome disabilities (blindness etc).  
 Courage to overcome difficulties (separation, etc).  
 Courage to do, and stand up for, what is right.

## Stimulus

Read the story of 'Daniel in the Lions' Den'.

## Discussion

- ✍ Discuss Daniel's beliefs – his faithfulness to God and his respect for the King of Babylon.
- ✍ Why were the Satraps jealous of Daniel?
- ✍ What was their plan against Daniel?
- ✍ Did the new law make any difference to Daniel?
- ✍ How do you think he felt when he chose to break the law? What was he showing – courage?
- ✍ What was his punishment?
- ✍ How do you think he felt in the lions' den?
- ✍ What happens next?

## Activity

1. Children to ask parents to help them look for examples of current acts of courage eg in newspaper, TV etc.
2. Acting out the story of 'Daniel in the Lions' Den'.



# VALUE: HONESTY

## Teacher understanding

'Honesty is to speak that which is thought and to do that which is spoken'. ie there are no contradictions in thoughts, words and action – includes not stealing/cheating/lying.

Honesty is a clear conscience – being honest brings trust.

## Stimulus

Story 'The Lie' (discuss why to tell the truth, not make up stories).

## Discussion

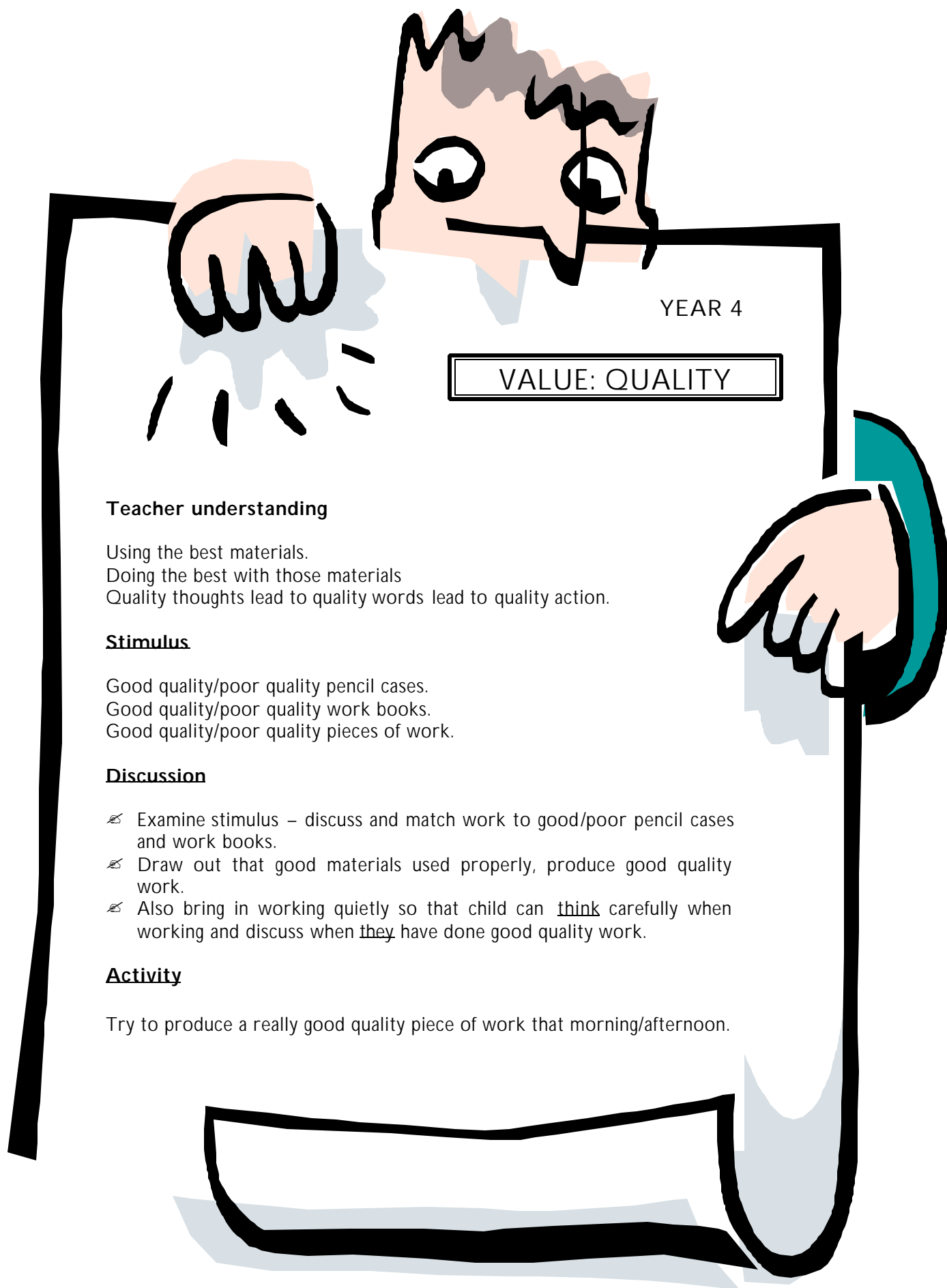
- ✍ Why do we tell lies?
- ✍ Why do we make up stories?
- ✍ Who do we hurt?
- ✍ One lie leads to another?
- ✍ How do we stop lying?
- ✍ Why is it best to tell the truth?

## Activity

Write about how you feel when you don't tell the truth.

Write about a time when you didn't tell the truth (be honest! what happened to you?)





### **Teacher understanding**

Using the best materials.  
Doing the best with those materials  
Quality thoughts lead to quality words lead to quality action.

### **Stimulus**

Good quality/poor quality pencil cases.  
Good quality/poor quality work books.  
Good quality/poor quality pieces of work.

### **Discussion**

- ✍ Examine stimulus – discuss and match work to good/poor pencil cases and work books.
- ✍ Draw out that good materials used properly, produce good quality work.
- ✍ Also bring in working quietly so that child can think carefully when working and discuss when they have done good quality work.

### **Activity**

Try to produce a really good quality piece of work that morning/afternoon.



YEAR 5

## Teacher Understanding

Stepping outside of the self.  
Being mindful of others – their needs and feelings and putting these before your own.  
Thoughtfulness is giving out of a love for others.

## Stimulus

Poem "I am" by Ella Wheeler Wilcox.

## Discussion

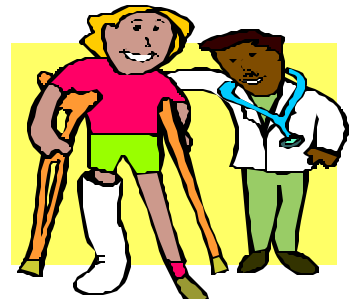
- ✍ ✍ What is pleasure and woe?
- ✍ ✍ What can we do to add to the joy or pain in the world?
- ✍ ✍ How can we brighten the world?
- ✍ ✍ How can we make life sweeter for others?
- ✍ ✍ What little things do people say or do that make you feel good?
- ✍ ✍ How can you be thoughtful this Christmas?

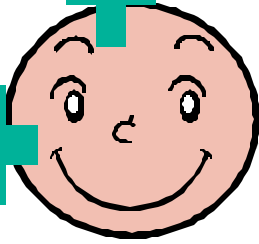
## Activity

Write you own acrostic poem using

**T H O U G H T**

VALUE: THOUGHTFULNESS





## VALUE: HAPPINESS

YEAR 6

### Teacher Understanding

Happiness – a good feeling.

If sought from outside sources (wealth, material possessions, status, relationships) it is temporary.

Lasting happiness is a state of contentment within – not needing to be fed by outside wants.

### Stimulus

Buddhist pictures, postcards, books – "The Buddhist Word".

"Religions", "Holy Books".

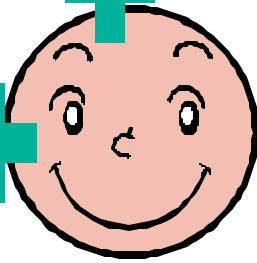
Buddhist figures.

### Discussion

- ✍ World religions, differences/similarities.
- ✍ Buddhist beliefs, practices.
- ✍ Meditation – what it involves; what it is practised; what can be achieved.
- ✍ Happiness comes from within. Meditation can help Buddhists to find inner contentment, happiness – to see themselves separate from their physical wants – to reflect on their God-like qualities and find true happiness.

### Activity

- ✍ To meditate - to sit comfortably – to focus on an object or picture or to close eyes and to consciously try and empty the mind of the physical and to try and see oneself as a source of energy – of light – a spirit.
- ✍ To write about the experience – examples enclosed.



## Examples

1. Meditation is where you let your body relax and your mind float into a dimension where there are no other life forms.

You have got to imagine that you are trapped in a block of concrete and cut off from any other people.

I have tried meditation and it is indeed very hard. There are people around you that might laugh and think you are silly. You have got to cut yourself off from that and just think that no-one else is around you. If you let other people let themselves distract you then your mind floats towards them.

It takes a while to be able to accustom to all other specialities that you need to be able to concentrate on what you are supposed to be doing.

You have to concentrate on pictures or candles. The pictures can be things like your relatives or your friends.

When I tried meditating I concentrated on the patterns on the tiles that line the ceiling.

Buddhists meditate to cut themselves off from the outside world and escape from all the worries that you or I may face in our lives.

The sit cross-legged because it is the most comfortable position that you can sit in for long periods. Many Yogis don't like people to watch them when they are meditating so they go into places where nobody can see them. Many great Yogis say that they can levitate but as no-one has seen them do this they can only believe what they hear.

There is a story called Henry Sugar and there is a Yogi who does not like to be seen and when he is seen he starts getting really cross. I doubt that this is true but there is a possibility that it is true.

2. Buddhist people meditate all the time throughout their lives. They focus on one thing for hours. Meditating is just like praying and speaking to god. Sometimes people think they are something else. They have to relax their bodies, they have to think and concentrate until they can see a picture in their minds of what they are concentrating on or until they have cleared their minds and they can see what happiness really is. The main reason why they meditate is so they can clear their minds.

At school we had a go at meditating and I found it really hard. I tried concentrating on my dog. I started to get an outline of my dog getting a picture like this is called visualisation. We did this for about five minutes. You have to try and relax, when I relaxed my body went all numb. I felt as if I was going to sleep.

## USEFUL TEACHING RESOURCES

The following books and materials are very useful:

- ✍✍ Living Values – An Educational Programme, visit [www.hci-online.com](http://www.hci-online.com) for details
- ✍✍ A Quiet Revolution by Frances Farrer. Rider I SBN 0712605770
- ✍✍ Education in Human Values: manual and lesson plans, contact June Auton, Lower Walbridge Farmhouse, Dowlish Wake, I lminster Somerset TA19 ONZ
- ✍✍ Turn Your School Around - Jenny Mosley L.D.A. I SBN 1/85503/174/4
- ✍✍ Don't just do something sit there - Mary K.Stone RMEP I SBN 1/85175/105/X
- ✍✍ Values and Visions - Sally Burns and George & Anne Lamont- Hodder & Stoughton I SBN 0340/64412/5
- ✍✍ Skills for the Primary Child - TACADE

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Karen Errington  
Lindsey Weimers  
Neil Hawkes

- ✍ -

Other resources in the schools of excellence series:

✍✍ The Role of the School Assembly  
✍✍ The Role of Reflection

Copies of these documents are available from Anne Marks on 01865 428117.

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For further advice on developing values-based education contact Neil Hawkes, Senior Adviser on 01865 428117.