

More children bringing behaviour problems into classrooms

Continual disobedience reason for most school stand downs

Widening gap between home and school expectations of behaviour

Something has gone wrong

While New Zealanders can be justly proud of many achievements, over recent decades we have experienced a general decline in the traits of character which build responsible individuals, strong families, effective schools and caring communities.

It is understood that young people need such character qualities as diligence, a strong work ethic, and a positive attitude in order to do their best in school and to succeed in life. They also need character qualities such as honesty, respect and fairness in order to live and work with others.

It is known that character determines behaviour just as behaviour demonstrates character.

Grassroots initiative

In 1993 a group of teachers, principals and school trustees established the New Zealand Foundation for Character Education Inc., a non-profit organization without religious or political affiliations, to prepare, publish and promote character education resources for use in New Zealand schools.

Information about the New Zealand Foundation for Character Education can be found on its website, www.cornerstonevalues.org

Character education

Character Education involves the intentional teaching by definition and example of respect, responsibility, honesty, consideration for others, compassion, kindness, obedience (to rightful authority), and duty (obligation), the law of consequences, rational decision making and impulse control.

“Building Character through Cornerstone Values,” resources are being used in many schools throughout New Zealand. These teacher-friendly resources include resource folders on each of the eight cornerstone values, posters and a 269 page book in both hard and digital format.

Character transforms schools

- Surveys of school principals who have implemented intentional character education attribute character education to:
- ❑ Improved relationships between the staff and the students and between students
 - ❑ Improved student playground behaviour and less stand-downs
 - ❑ 50% of the principals noticed a “significant” improvement in teaching effectiveness
 - ❑ 75% considered that character education had made their school more easily managed
 - ❑ 60% - 75% less vandalism
 - ❑ School perceived as a more caring community
 - ❑ Improved staff morale
 - ❑ Increased staff stability
 - ❑ Increased student attendance
 - ❑ Less need for external specialist services
 - ❑ Positive comments in ERO reports attributed to character education
 - ❑ Decile classification does not appear to influence or impede the implementation of character education

The results

Research supervised by Professor Gael McDonald, formerly a professor at the Auckland University of Technology and now Dean of the Faculty of Business and Law, Deakin University, Victoria, Australia, shows that intentional character education transforms schools.

Peter Moyle, principal of the Taupo nui-a-Tia College, expressed experience of many principals when he commented, "Cornerstone Values is teacher friendly, parent friendly, easy to implement and cost effective."

Accredited Cornerstone Values Schools

Waianiwa, Southland
George Street Normal, Dunedin
Musselburgh, Dunedin
Spring Creek, Marlborough
Bellevue, Wellington
Taupo nui-a-Tia College, Taupo
Kaharoa, Rotorua
Malfroy, Rotorua
Te Awamutu, Waikato
Pomaria, Henderson, Auckland

Cornerstone Values accredited schools

Although many schools throughout New Zealand have purchased and use resources produced by the Foundation, ten schools have advanced through the Cornerstone Values accreditation process. These schools are committed to the intentional teaching of character using the Cornerstone Values approach. They have been accredited to use the Foundation's registered trade mark. They are examples of what New Zealand Foundation for Character Education Inc. advocates.

Help make character education count

The New Zealand Foundation for Character Education has made an enormous

contribution to schools and their communities with considerable input from a number of educators despite modest financial resources.

Although character education is essential, it receives no Government funding.

The Foundation wishes to continue and extend this work through the development of resources, teacher training and building greater community awareness of the importance of character however, it is constrained by limited financial resources.

If you are encouraged by what you have read, perhaps you could contribute to this important work by making a donation to the New Zealand Foundation for Character Education.

Six reasons for implementing character education:

- There is a clear and urgent need
- Even in a pluralist society there is common ethical ground
- Transmitting character is and always has been the work of a civil society
- Democracies have a special need for citizens of good character
- There is no such thing as values free education
- There is strong support for character education

"Yes, count me in. I will help build character."

Name: Email:

Address:

I will help by giving \$25 \$50 \$100 my choice

Please complete one of the payment options below:

1. Cheque

Enclosed, please find a cheque payable to the NZ Foundation for Character Education

Please post to:

Freepost Authority 237462
New Zealand Foundation for Character Education Inc.
PO Box 357
Alexandra 9340
Charities Commission number: CC27841
Inquiries: info@cornerstonevalues.org
www.cornerstonevalues.org

2. Direct Credit Form

Please debit this card Visa MasterCard Amex

Card number:

Expiry date: / Name on card:

Signature:

Thank you for your commitment to building character, every community's most important work.

