



Brentwood PS Virtues Project Parent Brochure

To teach children well is to bring out the best in them. Most of us, teachers and parents, have an idea of wanting the best for our children, from making sure that they have enough food, clothes, hugs, toys and friends to giving them the best education. We want them to do well. We want to see them happy and successful. We wish them the best. What's best for them has everything to do with what is *in* them. As one six-year-old girl said when asked what she thought virtues were, "Virtues are what's good about us." The virtues are inside all of us, they are what make our character. We need to find a way to harness these virtues in our lives.

The Brentwood PS Virtues Project is a program for personal growth rather than a technique to be used just to change the behaviour of children. The virtues are an excellent way to **explicitly acknowledge** what it is the child has achieved or done. Eg. "Jack, I like the way you used your virtue of CARING when you assisted your friend after he fell over and hurt himself." These words more effectively acknowledge the child's behaviour than saying something like, "You're a good boy", or "I liked what you did." By explicitly teaching and talking the virtues we are able to make the children aware that these virtues exist inside all of them, they just need to learn to apply them as they travel through life.

There are 52 virtues in the project. They are drawn from many different cultures and can be found in all. The school focuses on one virtue per fortnight and the selected virtue often reflects a significant event from within our community, state or nation.



The virtues form the basis of the school's behaviour and student well-being plan and the children will be acknowledged using **Virtues Vouchers**. These vouchers recognise explicitly what the child has done. The children place their vouchers in the post box outside the staffroom and these are counted by faction leaders each Friday and returned to each owner. Each voucher is worth one faction point. On receiving their tenth voucher they will be recognised with a Gold gumnut, on receiving 30 vouchers they receive a Platinum gumnut AND on 50, a very rare Gem gumnut. Gumnuts are always presented at Parent assemblies.

More information about the Brentwood PS Virtues Project will be sent home over coming months. In the meantime, if you have any queries please speak with your child's teacher.



Regards
Peter Trimble