



**Mr Simon Lennon  
Headteacher  
Corpus Christi Catholic Primary School  
St. James's Square  
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**Association for Character Education Kitemark Plus (March 2022)**

Dear Simon,

Following an evaluative visit to the school on Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2022 by Mr Gary Lewis, Chair of the Association of Character Education and Mr Chris Willis, Executive Headteacher (Gosport), the Association can confirm that your school has met the exacting standards required to be awarded the ***"Character Education Kitemark Plus"***.

Congratulations to you, your pupils, staff and governors as this award clearly recognises the quality of learning and values-driven personal development programme enjoyed by all members of your school community. In particular, the awarding body wishes to commend you on the following: -

- The leadership provided by the Headteacher, Character Lead (Kerry Macfarlane), the wider senior leadership team and governors, is dedicated to the evolution of character education in the widest possible sense. It is impressive that the leaders of the school consulted widely with many stakeholders to bring about an effective fusion of character and Catholic values to produce a clear description of the school's vision to produce citizens of character living in the image of Christ. There are clear short, medium and longer term plans for evolving character provision so that it has a direct impact on student well-being, academic achievement and future life chances. Together with the stated aim of producing well-rounded pupils who take full responsibility for the world in which they live, the school has created a powerful framework for building a strong community, which benefits all members equally. There is real clarity regarding actions required to deliver a first rate provision and this is effectively reinforced with positive quality assurance systems and careful and thoughtful analysis of objective and subjective data which is readily available throughout the school.
- The school has produced some exemplary material for training and supporting staff and consequently they are both confident and competent in delivering a carefully

structured and scaffolded character curriculum programme. The Catholic Character Programme is carefully co-ordinated with the Liturgical year and a range of activities such as assemblies, charitable action and curriculum material are combined to provide maximum impact. The combination of committed academic research and carefully produced practical materials has produced a well-rounded programme focused on the needs of the school community and represents exemplary practice. The leadership team have a focused sense of the virtues they wish to develop and evolve and this commitment and knowledge is effectively and regularly communicated to staff.

- Discussions with pupils and teachers alike confirmed their dedication to the school's reinforced and well-understood core values and it was equally evident that all members of the community have a very clear understanding of the fact that "character is at the centre of everything the school does". The tangible pride that both staff and pupils articulated regarding all aspects of the school's determination to focus on their personal, professional and emotional well-being was very impressive. The assessors were delighted with the confident manner in which teachers were able to articulate and describe the school's vision and their intimate understanding of the school's stated values was evident in both their passion and deep knowledge.
- A tour of the school confirmed that both pupils and staff are immersed within the school's values culture. Displays throughout the school reinforced the school's approach to virtues and there was clearly a "critical mass" of both commitment and understanding.
- Discussions with pupils were particularly revealing and the assessors were highly impressed with the clarity and confidence with which they were able to articulate their understanding of living the school's stated virtues and Gospel values. All children, regardless of age, were able to discuss their personal journey and had a clear understanding of their responsibilities in the wider world. It is rare in such young children to see an equitable focus on both performance and emotional virtues.
- Pupils at this school behave in a calm and positive manner because they are able to make "the right choices". They have respect for and understanding of the needs and individual identities of all members of the school community. In turn, this results in focused lessons where pupils are able to concentrate and learn in a calm and supportive environment. In conclusion, the pupils feel safe and secure in this community and are able to flourish accordingly. Pupils value the reward programme which is dedicated to recognising "good character and virtue" and the highly sought after "golden apple" awards provide significant motivation.
- The school offers an extensive extra curricula programme, which both complements and reinforces the character offer. Children readily participate in eco groups, charitable teams (such as the mini vinnies) and sporting activities and eagerly grasp opportunities to develop both leadership and collaborative skills.

- The school has good and better relationships with the wider community and these relations continue to evolve. Governors are very well informed and provide committed and determined leadership, which is fully in tune with the direction provided by the Headteacher and his colleagues. This is a strong foundation for further development and progress.

In conclusion, the assessors were impressed with the character provision of the Corpus Christi Catholic Primary School and feel that they can offer extensive and informed support and guidance to other schools, which are in an earlier phase of their character journey. Similarly, the assessors are confident that the school will continue to improve their character provision and as such, the following suggestions may be of note: -

- A continued investment in extensive active research and on-going CPD opportunities is vital in ensuring consistent buy in from all colleagues and to guarantee a critical mass of staff are committed to character development in its widest sense. Constant reinforcement of the “sought, caught and taught” elements of character provision are going to be vital in ensuring that pupils from all backgrounds are rigorously equipped to face the challenges of life and work with equal confidence and aspiration.
- Although communication with the wider community is evident, a specific focus on engaging parents so that they understand the character language of the school and its specific objectives will pay considerable dividends. Working with parents to develop a joint sense of “phronesis” (making the right choices) via a series of workshops investigating typical parental and school “moral dilemmas”, can result in powerful outcomes.

The assessors are confident that the school’s leaders will continue with their ambitious programme and it is hoped that they will seek to share their successes with other schools on a similar journey.

Regards



Mr Chris Willis and Mr Gary Lewis (on behalf of the Association of Character Education)

6<sup>th</sup> March 2022