



Values Thinking

Curriculum content is delivered through values. Knowledge, skills and character strengths are used simultaneously.

When your values are clear to you, making decisions becomes easier.
Roy E. Disney

Thinking Classroom Podcast about Positive Education in Practice:
https://www.spreaker.com/user/thinkingclassroom/positive-education_1

Thinking Classroom Article about Positive Education:

How It Works

Positive Education defines 6 virtues that together comprise 24 character strengths. Plan the *how* of delivering a lesson in terms of strengths. Develop a shared language of characteristics that you and your students use to talk about all aspects of teaching and learning. Shift your focus to thinking about the character qualities of students and consider the various strengths they bring to the classroom. Try the ideas below.

Knowledge, Skills & Attitudes

The six virtues of Positive Education (and others) can be used individually or in combination to plan, deliver and assess any content: Wisdom, Courage, Humanity, Justice, Moderation and Transcendence can all be split into several component parts, described, challenged, used and celebrated. When we give values a voice, students notice them, think about them and are more likely to use them.

1. Profile

Create a character strengths profile for yourself and your students: use your knowledge of pupils and self-report surveys such as viacharacter.org.

2. Plan

Consider the character strengths needed and include these in the lesson plan. E.g.: creativity, perspective, self-control and persistence for successful drafting, editing and re-editing of a piece of original writing.

3. Teach-Talk

Use values language in day-to-day classroom talk, 'we might need our forgiveness during this debate', 'what kind of teamwork will work best here?', 'this task will develop your curiosity.'

A Selection of Character Strengths

- Creativity
- Curiosity
- Resilience
- Kindness
- Courtesy
- Humour
- Humility
- Patience
- Collaboration
- Service
- Love
- Honesty
- Judgment
- Zest
- Flexibility
- Determination
- Discernment
- Care
- Forethought
- Tolerance
- Respect

British Values, Positive Education, World Economic Forum and other sources can all guide your thinking about which values to emphasise.

For younger learners, bring values to life with puppets and other animal characters that demonstrate the particular quality. These characters can advocate for children and help them understand values

Begin here

Describe and define Persistence. What will we see and hear in class as evidence of persistence?

What did the students think?

What did you add?

4. Assess

When assessing learning, consider the how as much as the what. If a student struggled, note down their persistence; if they gave energy to others, zest; for evaluation praise judgment. Have students self- and peer assess values.

5. Publicise and Celebrate

Create a working values display space where the use of values is publicly described, recorded and celebrated.

Introduce values one by one, week by week; ask pupils to identify each one in themselves and others during the school day.