

What Character and Citizenship Looks Like

Respect

I am polite, courteous and caring. I value myself and others. I treat all people with dignity and uphold their rights. I protect property and our environment.

Responsibility

I am responsible for my thoughts, words and actions. I am accountable for my choices. I admit my mistakes and work to correct them. People can depend on me to honour my commitments. I demonstrate active citizenship.

Honesty

I am sincere, truthful and trustworthy.

Integrity

I behave in an ethical and honourable manner even when no one else is around. I am genuine, in that my actions consistently match my words.

Empathy

I respect the feelings of others. I seek to understand what others are thinking to appreciate their perspectives. I listen and consider their views, even though we may not agree. I act with kindness and compassion.

Fairness

I am sensitive to the needs of individuals. I include others and value their uniqueness. I celebrate diversity. I treat people with the dignity and consideration with which I would like to be treated. I gather as much information as possible in order to make a decision that is just.

Initiative

I am eager to do what needs to be done without being prompted by others. I seize opportunities and willingly take the steps necessary towards achieving a goal.

Perseverance

I finish what I start even when it is difficult. I do not give up when faced with challenges or obstacles. I complete all tasks and assignments to the best of my ability.

Courage

I face challenges directly. I speak up for myself and others even when it may be unpopular. I ask for help when necessary. I recognize risks and dangers, and do not take unwise chances to please others.

Optimism

I have a positive attitude. I see challenges as opportunities. I think, speak and act to make the world a better place. I have hope for the future.

This appendix adapted with permission from Kawartha Pine Ridge District School Board, "Character Makes A Difference!" (Peterborough, ON: Kawartha Pine Ridge District School Board, June 2003). These character attributes were developed through a process of community consultation.

